Activities for School

Label the School
Label the school in the target language and then do a hide-n-seek activity using the directions in the target language.

Label the Classroom
I label my room (these are laminated and have pieces of Velcro on them – taping them would work too). We label the room together. To review for several days, I simply say, Where is the door? (the flag, the blackboard, the chair) One can even incorporate numbers by saying, “How many chairs are there? How many doors are there? After several days of practice, I switch the labels and have groups find these mistakes or even remove all labels and have groups re-label the entire room.

Backpack Activity
Make a large overhead of an empty backpack. On an overhead transparency, put several items that may be found in a backpack. Then cut out the individual items. Put all the items in the backpack, but take one away as you ask the question - What do I need? Then ask the question What do I need for math, English, etc. Fill the backpack with items needed for each class subject.

I have created laminated backpacks for the students (which stay in the room) Inside there is a flashcard for each classroom item and another of its picture. They can match these up as a bell ringer (time them – many like to race to see improvement). They can also play memory with a partner.
Find the Object
Have a student leave the room. Hide an object in the classroom such as a pencil. The student then returns to the classroom and tries to find the object with his/her classmates’ help. When the student is closer to the object, the other students say the name of the object in the target language louder. As the students get farther from the object, the other students say the word softer until the object is found.

School Commands
I like to teach my students simple commands to use daily in the classroom such as open your book, close your book, and pass in your homework.

Do you have-----?
Using the list below, randomly call upon different students and ask if they have an item. If they show you the correct object, give them bonus points or whatever you use for rewards.

- a pencil – yellow, short, new
- a pen – black, blue or red
- a calculator
- a notebook – red, green or yellow
- a pencil without an eraser
- a photo
- a magazine
- a clock
- a ruler
- a pencil with an eraser
- an exam with the grade of A
- some scissors
- a dictionary
- a book – math, English, or history
- two crayons of different colors
- a book from the library
Find the Object
One student guides a blindfolded student to a classroom object. The blindfolded person must identify the object in Spanish.

- You write with this and it is permanent.
- Students keep all of their notes in these.
- You use this to measure.
- Each book has several of these.
- This is a teacher’s desk.

Post It
Write all of the objects found in a classroom on separate post it notes. Have the students put the post it notes on the correct objects. This can be done individually or in teams.

Pictionary
One member of each team illustrates the word to see which team guesses first correctly.

Categories
Divide the students into pairs. Each pair of students writes sixteen vocabulary words of things in a classroom. They mix up the vocabulary words and leave them on the desk. When the teacher gives a signal, the pair moves to the next desk and then has the task of putting the cards written by his classmates into categories. For example, the words can be categorized by things to write with, things to write on, things to read etc.
Classroom Auction
The teacher holds an auction of pencils, stickers, or other small classroom items. Each item has a price marked on it between 1 and 31 (hidden from students’ sight). The teacher calls on students to call out a number, trying to guess the price of the item up for bid. After a number has been guessed, the teacher says “más” if the price needs to be higher or “menos” if the price needs to be lower. When someone guesses the price, he/she wins the item.

Classroom Telephone
The teacher creates in advance 2 sets of identical classroom items. The teacher divides the students in half and instructs them to form 2 lines by saying, “Formen dos filas, por favor.” In front of each line leader, the teacher places a set of different classroom items of different colors on a chair or desk. The teacher models the activity for the students. The teacher whispers the classroom object and color (i.e. la regla roja) to the student who is last in line. That student in turn whistles the next student and so on until the message reaches the line leader. The line leader picks up the classroom item of the color that was “telephoned” (whispered down the line) to him/her. The person at the front of the line moves to the back of the line so that each student gets a chance to choose the correct shape.

Where are you----?
I like to post places of the school around my room (labels). I make a statement. In the target language, I make the statement that you are talking with the school principal. I then call on a student and they walk to the place they would most likely be doing this thing.
School Clues

Fill in the blank with the word in Spanish that fits the description given.

1. ___________ It is white and has lines. We write on it.
2. ___________ They study in the school and go to classes.
3. ___________ It represents the United States and is red, white & blue.
4. ___________ It is a desk where students sit.
5. ___________ You use this to erase the blackboard.
6. ___________ This is round and has countries, cities, rivers etc.
7. ___________ The same as above only it is flat.
8. ___________ You read these.
9. ___________ You enter and leave through this.
10. ___________ Students attend here to learn.
11. ___________ It is of glass, and you look through it.
12. ___________ You cut with these.
13. ___________ This person teaches.
14. ___________ This has the days and months on it.
15. ___________ You write with this, and it is permanent.
16. ___________ Students keep their notes in these.
17. ___________ You use this to measure.
18. ___________ Each book has several of these.
19. ___________ This is a teacher’s desk.
20. ___________ These are wonderful when they work.

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