

## TSA'S ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL ISSUE

It's that time of year again—time to go back to school. From that first day of pre-school to the start of the last semester of graduate school, nothing is quite like the first day of school. It's a time of anxiety and anticipation for students, parents and teachers alike. In this year's Back-To-School issue we'll look at school from three points of view with advice to students, teachers and parents from people who know what they are talking about because they have been there.

### Preparing for the First Day of School

Parents, teachers and students all have ideas about the best way to prepare for the first day of school. Kelly Coulter urges fellow parents to assure children that things will be OK—if not perfect.

"Let them know that there may be things that need to be worked out with the teacher or school and that it is

important for them to talk about what is going on. Let them know that they have a special role in educating their school and that it sometimes takes time. Teachers aren't perfect but they want to help (I feel as though I can say this as I am a former teacher). Also, make sure the child has enough sleep and a good breakfast. Our family also gets everything ready the night before so that it's not a rush in the morning."

Her son William, who is looking forward to making new friends in junior high school, believes in taking charge. He suggests that students "... ask the teacher if you can talk to the class about TS."

Travis Stecher, a teen with TS who won the 2005 TSA Teen Volunteer Award, has one piece of sage advice for parents. "Aside from letting the child know that they will be there for them regardless of what happens, helping them prepare and get organized makes it much easier for a child

who lacks organizational skills (common in TS)."

Adam Genovese, a school guidance counselor and tennis coach who has TS, advises parents to be open and have a conversation with their children about how people react to tics. He points out that just as students with TS reach adolescence and are likely to experience an increase in tic symptoms, "... other kids are not exactly increasing in sensitivity."

He recommends adopting the strategy he took as a young student. "It's up to the child to take the attitude that I took... regardless of what people say or how they make fun, I know that they don't dislike me. In fact, they just don't know any better and it's not wrong to even feel badly for these people, as they will likely lose my respect and even look badly themselves. Nobody actually likes someone who mocks others, even if people laugh. The laughter is just a result of not knowing any better and

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## BREAKING NEWS

### MAJOR VICTORY FOR CHILDREN WITH TS

Individuals with Disabilities  
Education Act to Classify  
Tourette Syndrome as  
Other Health Impaired

See Pull-Out  
Insert Inside

### "I HAVE TOURETTE'S BUT TOURETTE'S DOESN'T HAVE ME" WINS AN EMMY

The TSA-HBO documentary, "I Have Tourette's but Tourette's Doesn't Have Me" has received the prestigious Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Children's Program. It was also nominated for a second Emmy in the category of Outstanding Cinematography for Nonfiction Programming—Single-Camera Productions.

"We could not be happier," Judit Ungar, President of TSA, commented when the award was announced on August 19. "We are so very proud of the documentary and especially of the young people who bravely told their own stories for the world to hear."

"I Have Tourette's but Tourette's Doesn't Have Me" is a candid look at the lives of real children and teens with TS. The 27-minute documentary has aired dozens of times on HBO and HBO Family channels since its debut in November 2005, and has also been available for viewing on "HBO on Demand." It is estimated that well over two million viewers have seen this touching and insightful program.

The documentary, with an additional half hour of extra footage, is available on DVD from TSA. Over 13,000 copies have been distributed thus far and TSA hopes to make copies available to every school system in the U.S.

