By AMBER McMANUS

School days are back in session once again for the year. The nostalgia of summer fun being over and fall creeping back in with a new school year brings back so many memories, even though it's been over a decade since I last graced school hallways.

I remember being a kid and about two weeks before school started, I would start to get the nervous jitters. I worried about liking my teacher, if the classes would be too difficult, if I would have a hard time fitting in with my peers. The whirlwind of thoughts were almost constant in my mind during the last few days of summer vacation.

One of my favorite parts of anticipation for the new year was the school shopping. I used to have all my folders neatly labeled for each class, my pencils perfectly sharpened with matching erasers in my pencil case, and I always had the best crayons, scissors and glue. Little did I know, that after about the first week in school, my orderly supplies would become so disorganized even though I swore every year that I would change and keep everything perfect.

Even better than the supplies was the clothes shopping. Almost every student wants to look their very best on the first day of school and I was definitely no exception. I made sure that my ensemble was just right and all of my accessories matched and would have it laid out ready to be worn at least three days before school even started.

I was actually one of those kids who liked school. Although the middle school years were a bit awkward, I loved elementary and high school. Even to this day, I will still occasionally have a dream that I'm back in school and either running late to class or in trouble with the teacher for one thing or another.

I do reminisce and miss the excitement of school as well as all of the extracurricular activities that I truly loved. There was nothing like cheering on your school football team on a cool autumn night with a hot chocolate in your hand. And even though my school days are over, I can always hold onto my cherished memories and when my children start school one day, I'm sure all my first day excitement and jitters will return once again.

Amber McManus is a correspondent for the Paulding County Progress.

The opinions stated are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect that of the newspaper.