



By Tonia Tomlin
Conquer Kitchen Chaos:
 Secrets to Creating an Organized Kitchen

Ask any home owner, and they'll probably tell you that of all of the rooms in the house, the kitchen is the room that is used the most. Whether for cooking, eating, or even entertaining, most kitchens get more than their fair share of use. With the many purposes and functions of the kitchen, it's important that your kitchen be as organized as possible. However, with the many items most kitchens hold – food, appliances, cookware, utensils, plates, cups, etc. – it's not uncommon to find that the most used room in the house is the least organized.

But, take heart: by following a few simple tips, you can conquer kitchen chaos.

For instance:

Clear off the counters: Store kitchen utensils in drawers, not on the counters in a bucket or basket. Eliminating the clutter from the counters makes the kitchen feel more inviting and “orderly.” Keep the island cleared of the paper chaos by investing in a mail center from Pottery Barn. Each piece of mail, school permission slip, and coupon will have its own home while making yours organized.

Purge the cardboard: Get rid of your cardboard. It doesn't keep food as fresh as clear, air-tight plastic containers, or zip-lock bags. Cardboard also attracts bugs. So empty those cereal boxes and other boxed food items. Your food will be easier to find, taste a lot better and save you money in the long run!

Invest in the right organizing tools for cupboards, pantries, and cabinets: Maximize your storage space in pantries by going vertical with your organizing tools. Put a bag holder on the wall for reusing shopping bags and under-the-shelf baskets to maximize space. Use trolley bins for storing paper goods. They help you know what you have so you can use it.

Sort your staples, snacks, and supplies: Most people don't take the time to organize their refrigerator, but it is well worth the effort. Organizing the refrigerator is a simple way to save time, money, and space. Arrange your shelves in the refrigerator by category, such as dairy drawer, veggie drawer, fruit drawer, children's snack bin, etc. Also, the refrigerator doors tend to become catch-alls with no method to the madness. Designate the doors for condiments and special items, such as special needs foods for diets, illnesses, weight loss, or medicines, etc. This will help you in making a list, going grocery shopping, saving money and help you have a nice, uncluttered refrigerator too.

Once you get your kitchen organized, stick to your organization system. Remember: it's much easier and much less time consuming to stay organized than it is to be disorganized!



Tonia Tomlin is the Founder and President of Sorted Out™ and Sorted Out Publishing. Tonia is an author, publisher, speaker and mother of twin girls. She has been featured on HGTV's, Mission: Organization, and is the author of the book Chaos 2 Calm: The Moms-of-Multiples' Guide to an Organized Family. Tonia@Sorted-Out.biz. www.SortedOut.biz

PLANO ISD SCHOOL CALENDAR
 2010-2011

(Revised March, 2010)

Early Childhood Hours:
 Beaty, Isaacs & Pearson: 8:15-11:00 a.m. - 12:30-3:15 p.m.
 Harrington Chinese PreK: 8:00-10:45 a.m. - 12:15-3:00 p.m.
 Head Start: 8:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

Elementary Hours: 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
 Middle School Hours: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 High School & Sr. High: 9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

August 23 (Monday)	First Day of Classes
September 6 (Monday)	Labor Day (Student/Teacher Holiday)
■ September 22 (Wednesday)	ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE, Teacher Professional Development
◆ October 14 (Thursday)	ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE, Teacher Records Day
October 15 (Friday)	Parent/Teacher Conference Day (Student Holiday)
■ November 10 (Wednesday)	ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE, Teacher Professional Development
November 24 - 26	Thanksgiving Holiday (Student /Teacher Holiday)
◆ December 17 (Friday)	Last Day for Students / ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE, Teacher Records Day
December 20 – December 31	Winter Break (Student/Teacher Holiday)
January 3 (Monday)	Teacher Work Day (Student Holiday)
January 4 (Tuesday)	Classes Resume (Students)
January 17 (Monday)	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (Student/Teacher Holiday)
February 21 (Monday)	Professional Development Day (Student Holiday)
■ February 23 (Wednesday)	ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE, Teacher Professional Development
◆ March 11 (Friday)	ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE, Teacher Records Day
March 14 - 18	Spring Break (Student/Teacher Holiday)
April 22 (Friday)	Student/Teacher Holiday
■ May 11 (Wednesday)	ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE, Teacher Professional Development
May 30 (Monday)	Memorial Day (Student/Teacher Holiday)
◆ June 2 (Thursday)	Last Day of Classes for Students / ELEMENTARY EARLY RELEASE, Teacher Records Day

Early Release Legend

Early Dismissal
 12:00 p.m. dismissal for Elementary Grades K-5

Early Childhood Schools' Early Release Schedule

- A.M. session will not meet
- ◆ P.M. session will not meet

Dismissal time specific to each campus.

(Exam Dates TBA. Exam Dismissal Times - Middle Schools: 12:40 p.m., High/Senior High Schools: 1:20 p.m.)

First Bad Weather Day – June 3

Second Bad Weather Day – June 6

LEVEL	End of Grading Period	Start Date	TOTAL DAYS
ELEMENTARY	End of First Grading Period	October 14	38 days
	End of Second Grading Period	December 17	42 days
	TOTAL DAYS		80 days
ELEMENTARY	End of Third Grading Period	March 11	47 days
	End of Fourth Grading Period	June 2	52 days
	TOTAL DAYS		99 days
SECONDARY	End of First Grading Period	September 30	28 days
	End of Second Grading Period	November 4	24 days
	End of Third Grading Period	December 17	28 days
TOTAL DAYS		80 days	
SECONDARY	End of Fourth Grading Period	February 17	32 days
	End of Fifth Grading Period	April 14	34 days
	End of Sixth Grading Period	June 2	33 days
TOTAL DAYS		99 days	

Did you know Executives waste six weeks per year searching for lost documents?
 80% of what we keep we never use.

Spend more time doing the things you love and less time doing the things you dread.

Sorted out
 ORGANIZING YOUR WORLD

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 Home Office • Game Rooms • Photos/Memorabilia

 **Tonia Tomlin**
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