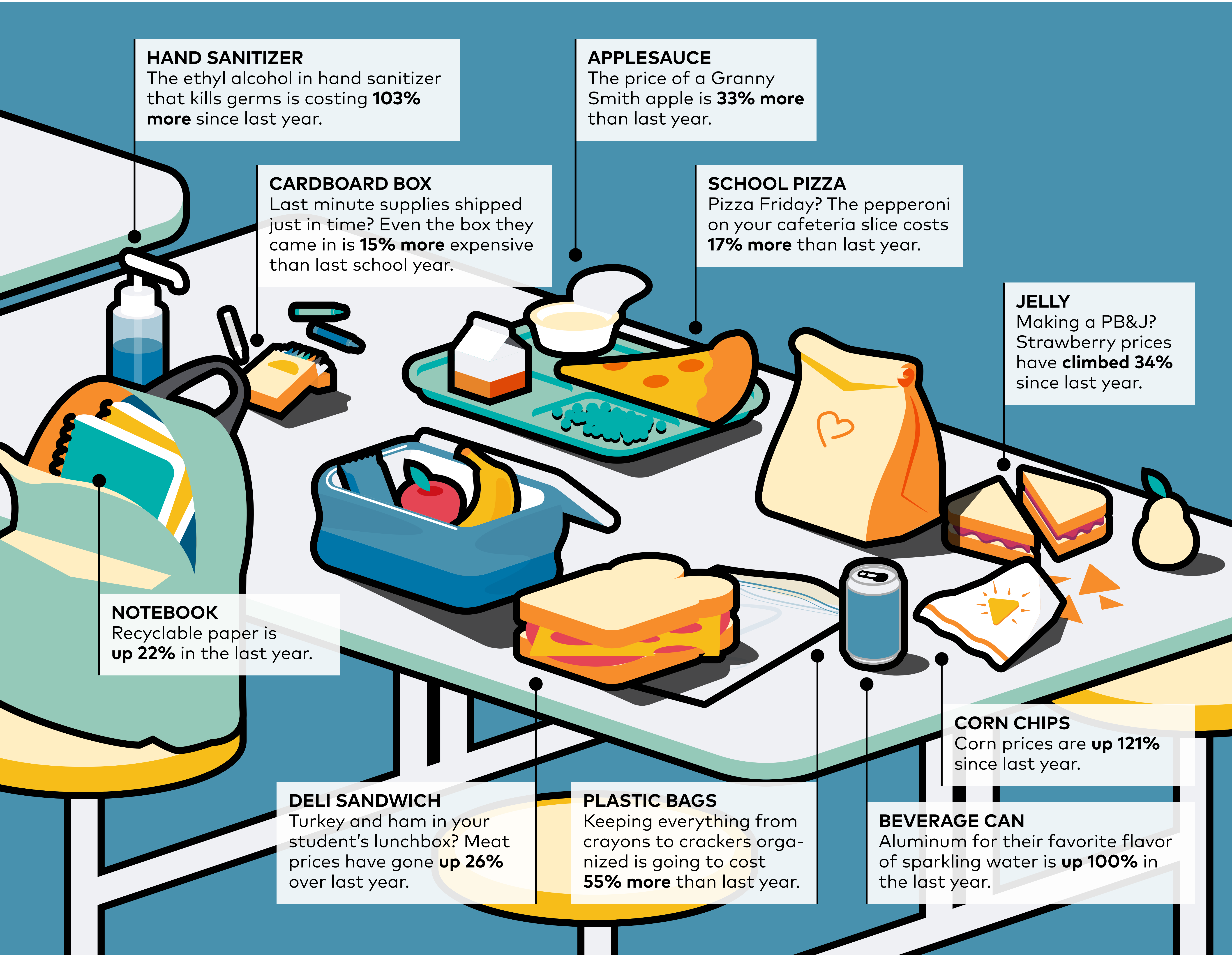


Behind the Backpack



A lot goes into making your favorite products. Today, unprecedented demand, a pandemic, storms, port delays, shipping challenges and rising commodity prices mean it is costing more to produce and deliver this year's back-to-school essentials.



Pop quiz: What's increasing the costs on your student's school supplies?

The products in the backpack may be different, but the root causes of rising costs are the same. Every link in the supply chain is stressed from relentless demand — demand that will linger long after first quarter report cards are sent home.



INGREDIENTS

The producer price index, which tracks more than 1,500 ingredients and inputs, has hit record highs for months in a row.



PACKAGING

Packaging costs — from glass to cardboard — are up more than 50% since the start of the pandemic.



LABOR

Even with wages increasing, there is a labor shortage: 814K manufacturing jobs are waiting to be filled.



SHIPPING

With per-mile truckload prices rising and diesel costs skyrocketing in the last year, getting goods delivered to consumers costs more.



Ease the Squeeze

Washington should act now to ease the squeeze on American families. The government can help lessen short-term cost pressures and set better long-term supply chain policy.

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