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SCHOOL

 THE SALEM NEWS

Friday, August 12, 2016



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# SET THE STAGE FOR SUCCESS

## Tips for a smooth transition back to school

For parents putting bright-eyed students on the bus for the very first time and for seasoned moms and dads who know the drill inside and out, gearing up for another year of school is a process.

The shopping extravaganzas, trips to the doctor for physicals, endless forms and paperwork all culminate in a single moment: the first day back to school.

Often, it's this first day (or days) that set the tone for the school year to come. Help your child feel prepared and confident to tackle whatever the school year brings with these tips for a successful start.

### Plan well-balanced meals

Summer break brings a lax approach to many aspects of life, and healthy eating is often one of them. However, nutrition plays an important role in overall development and countless studies show a correlation between academic performance and good nutrition. As the school year approaches, work at creating healthy menus. If hectic scheduling makes it difficult to get well-balanced meals in lunchboxes and on the dinner table through the week, allocate a portion of the weekend for a family prep session.

See TRANSITION, PAGE S4 Plan ahead and start devising a routine to ease students' return to the classroom.



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# TRANSITION

■ Continued from Page S3

## Reinstate bedtimes

Easing back into earlier bedtimes will make things smoother for everyone when the alarms start ringing on early school-day mornings. Well before the start of school, gradually back off more time each night — in 15-minute increments, for example — to get kids back in bed early enough to capture at least 10 hours of sleep, the amount recommended by the National Institutes of Health for school-aged children and adolescents.

## Get creative to boost enthusiasm

Part of the fun of heading back to the classroom is a shiny new set of supplies. Build your kids' excitement by letting them select the tools they'll use to bring home good grades, like pens and pencils. Despite a keyboard and



Getty Images

One way students can show their own personality is through school supplies, like bright-colored pens and pencils.

touchscreen-driven world, sales of color-focused

products like felt-tip markers, porous (fine-line) pens

and colored pencils are on the rise.

In an effort to follow and respond to trends, manufacturers like Zebra Pen continue to introduce products that allow for personal expression.

"We're conscious of the influx of technology in the school, but still see the importance of writing instruments in the school environment. There is a great deal of pen or pencil and paper activity in the classroom and we have focused on providing products that meet the needs of teachers and students alike," said Ken Newman, director of marketing at Zebra Pen.

## Explore outside of academics

Developing interests outside the classroom builds confidence and character, teaches discipline and may help reveal hidden passions or talents that translate into future scholarships or career choices. Now is an ideal time to explore the options available in your community and complete necessary registrations

as many extra-curricular activities are closely linked to the traditional school calendar.

## Follow the paper trail

The volume of paperwork associated with sending a child to school can be overwhelming. From registration forms and emergency contact sheets to physicals and immunization records, the list goes on and on. Stay on track with a list of all the materials you're responsible for completing, along with special notes for those that require visits to the doctor's office or other appointments.

## Take a tour

Especially for new students, but even for experienced kids, spend some time getting familiar with the school before the big day. Seeing the bus drop-off location, classroom, bathrooms, cafeteria and any other major features ahead of time can help soothe the jitters and lets you proactively quell worries or answer questions about how those first days may

## EXPRESS PERSONALITY WITH STYLE

Encouraging your child to develop his or her own unique personality can be tough with social "rules" and official policies that determine dress code, supplies and more. When you get down to it, though, there are dozens of ways to let kids explore personal expression without breaking any rules or subjecting them to unwanted attention.

**Accessories:** Even at schools with uniforms or dress codes, there is some latitude when it comes to accessorizing. Dress codes vary, but many allow flexibility in things such as socks, shoes, hair bows and jewelry.

**School supplies:** Let kids choose their own writing implements as a personal statement of self-expression, which is especially important to middle and high school students. With so many options, it's easy to bypass the basic bargain selection and choose from an array of new designs and creative features.

**Personal space:** For younger students, the area designated as a student's own may be limited to a backpack or storage cubby. For older kids, there's an entire locker to consider. Customizing these personal areas lets kids assert a clear stamp of individuality. Photos, artwork and treasured mementoes bring these personal spaces to life.

unfold.

## Establish a transition tradition

Celebrate the end of summer and the fresh start ahead by creating a special family tradition. It may be a final backyard campout for the season or a scrapbooking project that captures memories from the summer and describes goals for the school year. The time together to talk about what lies ahead can help get the family geared up for a successful school year.

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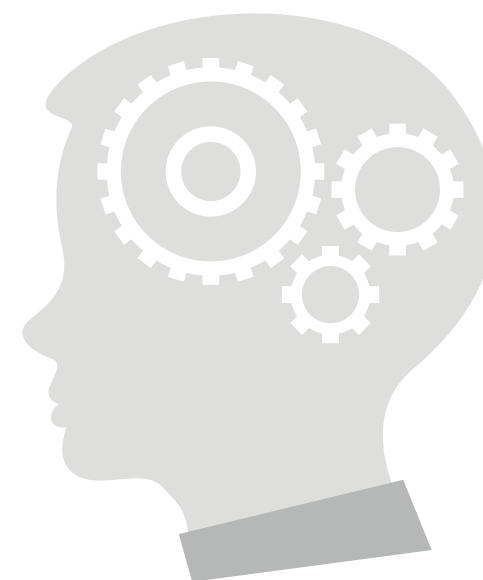


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# Preserving memories

## 4 clever ways to hold on to school year's special moments

By MELISSA RAYWORTH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

On crisp September afternoons, kids often come home from school bearing armfuls of classroom art. The evenings often bring comments about their day's events and sometimes hilarious descriptions of their world.

Parents are sure they'll save and remember all those paper creations and memorable words. But the pace of life soon takes over, and even organized moms and dads can end up inundated.

It's worth creating a system to manage the flow because school artwork can quickly pile up, said Laura Russell, founder of the craft blog makelifelovely.com and a mother of four. With just a bit of creative effort, you can also find ways to hold on to all those funny comments you'll

want to remember years from now.

As a new school year begins, here are four easy projects to help do that:

### 1. Follow them with photos

You can build on the trend of snapping and posting "first day of school" photos by adding written notes in your kids' own handwriting, said Kayla Kitts, special projects editor at HGTV.com. Take a photo on that first day, and that evening have kids write out a page listing their current dreams and favorites.

Include five or 10 questions about anything you'd like: the career they'd love to have someday, their favorite school lunch, best friend, favorite class. Have them write it out in their own handwriting to preserve that too, Kitts said. Then scan or photograph the page.



This home work space designed by Tamara Eaton featuring an oversized pinboard extending all the way to the ceiling is perfect for displaying all of a student's newest artwork. An antique rotating cabinet, right, also provides useful storage with unique flair.

Photo courtesy Tamara Eaton Design/HGTV.com/ Scripps Networks LLC via AP

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Do the same on the day before their December holiday break, and again during the final week of school.

Then supplement those three photos and images of their written surveys with other photos from school events or candid shots with friends, or scans of their school artwork. Lay it all out in a photo book you can order online.

"It's a really cool book to give grandparents," Kitts said, and is a keepsake your child will enjoy in the future.

At the end of elementary school, you can easily create a book that includes these photos and written comments as a gift to a special teacher.

### 2. Winnow their work

Russell begins each year by setting aside a big file-folder box for each child. She labels one hanging folder for each month, with some spares in case files fill up before a month ends.

If that level of organization sounds too ambitious,

keep a large plastic bin handy.

"Stuff all the art in there," Russell said, and go through it periodically, asking each child which pieces are their favorites.

Once you've pared things down to their favorites and yours, Russell suggests slipping the art into plastic sleeves in a three-ring binder. Her kids love thumbing through their binders from past school years.

"While I'm in charge of the books now and don't let the kids pull them out unless I'm sitting with them, I plan on giving them their books when they're older," she said.

Another suggestion for storing and celebrating art: "Scan the favorite pieces as they come home. From those scans, you can make a slideshow for each year of school," Russell said.

"Life is short, and the artwork that comes home right now can be a wonderful way to tie generations together," she added.

### 3. Save their sayings

Buy a paper date book for each child (it can be for the current calendar year or for the 18 months that begin in July and run through the end of next year). Make sure the book offers writing space for each day — ideally half a page. Keep the book in a high-traffic spot at home with a pen attached.

When one of the kids says something that you'll want to remember, write it on that day's page. Then, during the weekends, ask your child to describe the previous week at school. If they wish, they can also draw pictures. It's a wonderfully analog way to preserve a school year in our digital world.

A twist on that: Kitts suggests keeping a few glass jars around the house, along with slips of blank paper and a pen. When your child thinks of something they want to preserve, have them jot it down, write the date on it and put it in a jar. You can do the same.

Whether it's a jar, book or even a note typed into your phone, "just write down those precious memories now," Russell said. "We think we'll never forget those precious words and how old our kids were when they said them, but the fact is that we do forget."

### 4. Have a rotating display of their art in their rooms

Kitts suggests hanging a few empty frames in various sizes filled with a thin sheet of cork on your child's bedroom wall. Place pushpins in the corners of each frame. When your child brings home art they're excited about, pin it into a frame. The pins make it easy to rotate artwork in and out.

If the walls are already full, try hanging a length of twine and use clothespins to hang a rotating selection of school artwork.

One last useful move as the year wears on: Each time you reach into the bin of creations to select something new to display, choose a few items to discard.



Photo courtesy Flynnside Out Productions/HGTV.com/Scripps Networks LLC via AP  
**Framed pictures of children's art cover the walls of a bathroom designed by Brian Patrick Flynn.**

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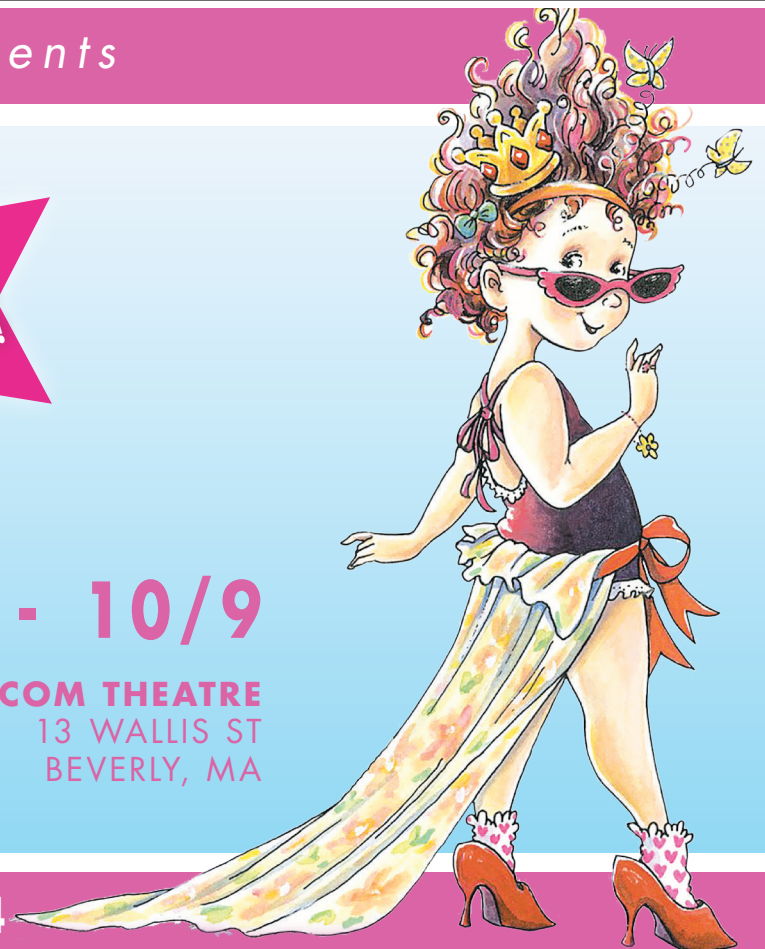
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# 'Parent portals' — the pros and cons

## When does checking on student performance become too much of a good thing?

By LISA A. FLAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Once upon a time, finding out how your child was doing in school could require weeks of patience. You waited for the parent-teacher conference, for a return phone call from the school if you were concerned and, eventually, for a report card to land in the mailbox.

Now, a growing number of families can get instant access to grades and other school information through online "parent portals."

But just because a grade can be posted hours after a test, does that mean parents should rush to the portal and discuss the B minus with their child that evening?

How often should they

check on grades, and what's the best way to handle the real-time academic updates?

"My suggestion is for parents to not make themselves crazy checking every day," said Nancy Hill, a developmental psychologist and education professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

"Too much information can make a parent overbearing rather than facilitating their student's sense of autonomy" and planning, she added. "It's how parents use the information that becomes essential."

Parents should start by checking the portals once a week (more if a child is struggling) and see how it goes, advises Hill, who studies parental



AP File Photo/Rogelio V. Solis

**One adolescent education psychologist recommends checking portals once a week — more if a child is struggling — to start with and see how it goes. Parents can then adjust accordingly based on what they're seeing from their child.**

involvement in education during adolescence.

"But not on Friday," she said. You don't want

"to brood over it over the weekend."

Parent portals, which let schools securely post

information on attendance, class schedules, report cards and even lunch menus, along with grades, have gone into use in school systems around the country over the last decade, experts say.

Hill says the portals can be empowering, especially for parents of adolescents. Parents can monitor kids' progress behind the scenes, and not always have to ask to see the graded papers and tests.

"They can see it and know how their children are doing and give space for independence and autonomy that the middle schoolers really crave," she said.

Some parents check the portals every day; others never sign up at all.

Neil Shapiro, a father of two, describes himself as

"a very vigilant checker," who logged on at least once a day last school year when his son was a high school senior and his daughter in eighth grade.

"They think it's ridiculous," he said of his children, both high-achievers. "They think I'm nuts."

But using the portals meant that he and his wife could provide support when they felt their kids needed it, and before it was too late.

"You can nip things in the bud," Shapiro said. "I don't want to find out my son or daughter missed three homework assignments at the end of the marking period. I want to find out why they missed the homework now" and what to do about it.

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three homework assignments at the end of the marking period. I want to find out why they missed the homework now” and what to do about it.

He believes his kids were motivated to do well because they knew he was checking, but he tried to avoid using the information to stress them out.

“It’s definitely a balance,” he said, adding that “you have to pick and choose how and when you confront your children about it.”

Juliet Babros logs into the portals much less frequently to check on her daughters, who enter ninth and 11th grade this fall. She encourages them to try to improve their grades by, for example, asking to retake a test if they didn’t score well.

“I consider my approach balanced because I’m not constantly checking daily or even weekly, but more sporadically or when I suspect there might be an issue, or if they don’t seem to be managing their time

well,” said Babros.

“As my kids have gotten older, they don’t always want to talk about assignments and test grades,” she said. “The parent portal gives me a glimpse into what’s going on in school without me having to bug them.”

Hill advises parents to do nothing if they see their child is doing fine. The portals, she said, allow for both celebrations and course corrections.

“If the child did better than expected, say, ‘Hey I think you did really well. You worked hard. Tell me more about what worked for you,’” she said.

“If they’re not doing well or had a poor grade, I wouldn’t blow it out of proportion or change your weekend plans,” Hill said. “I would ask them what happened and give them space to explain themselves, and then ask them what their plan is and if they need help.”

Don’t take every grade too seriously.



A teacher at Hannah Elementary School in Salem readies her classroom for students’ return. Experts say online portals can allow for both celebration of student performance as well as course corrections.

FILE PHOTO

59 The Salem News • BACK TO SCHOOL • Friday, August 12, 2016

“Understand that a poor grade early on doesn’t define them,” Hill said. “It gives them an opportunity to see how they can

improve.”

Cory Notestine, a school counseling facilitator in Colorado, also suggests that parents check on

grades about once a week, noting that frequent checking and negative comments could strain the parent-child relationship.

“Over time,” he said, “what we want for children to do is take ownership of their education, with support from parents.”

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# Naturally sweet granola bars are sure to be a hit with kids

By MEERA SODHA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Once upon a time, my Indian grandma was left in charge of packing school lunches for my sisters and me. We were sent off to school with some potato curry and a garlic chutney so fierce my eyebrows twitched on the bus all the way to school and I couldn't bear to open the Tupperware in fear of what might be unleashed on my friends. After that, I outlawed traditional Indian food in my packed lunches, setting my mother free to get creative with Anglo-Indian dishes that became family favorites.

This granola bar using dates, coconut and peanuts is among the recipes she created. It doesn't use sugar,

instead relying on dates and honey as sweeteners. The dates add a lovely fudgy texture and the oats and peanuts give slow-release energy which will keep your kids (and you) going for a few hours. Cinnamon and ginger, in a nod to India, are used in small amounts to add a hint of warmth and extra flavor.

Mum used to make it in big batches on a Sunday and fill the house with the most divine smells, which would creep under the door while I was doing my homework. For the rest of the week, I'd look forward to packed lunches knowing what I was going to get.

## DATE, COCONUT AND PEANUT GRANOLA BAR

**Start to finish:** 40 minutes  
**Servings:** 16

1 1/4 sticks butter, unsalted  
1 cup dates, pitted and chopped  
1/3 cup honey, plus more to drizzle  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger  
1 cup desiccated coconut  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 cups rolled oats  
1/2 cup roasted unsalted peanuts, chopped

**Grease and line** an 8-inch square baking pan and pre-heat the oven to 325 degrees.

**Add the butter,** dates, honey, coconut, ginger and cinnamon to a deep saucepan and heat over a low flame until butter and honey melt, stirring occasionally.

**Stir in the oats** and chopped peanuts until mixed, then spread evenly into the baking pan. Pat the top down with a spoon to smooth it, then drizzle the top with honey.

**Bake for** 25 to 30 minutes or until brown and firm on top. Cool before cutting into squares.



Meera Sodha via AP

**Date, coconut and peanut granola bars** from a recipe by Meera Sodha, who grew up with the treats in her lunchbox.

**These bars will keep** for up to a week in an airtight tin.

**Nutrition information per**

**serving:** 200 calories; 107 calories from fat; 12 g fat (7 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 15 mg

cholesterol; 11 mg sodium; 23 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 13 g sugar; 3 g protein.

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# CONNECTING WITH NATURE

## Kids' ties to nature don't have to end with summer

BY KATHERINE ROTH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**T**he start of the school year doesn't have to mean the end of time outdoors.

Many parents, teachers and schools are finding ways to keep kids connected to nature all year.

"It may be even more important for kids to be connected to nature during the school year than just in the summer," said Richard Louv, author of the new "Vitamin N: The Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life" and the best-selling "Last Child in the Woods."

"Amid all the focus on technology, we've been missing something quite elemental," Louv said.

Just a walk through an urban park, he said, can help kids' performance in school. "I can't tell you how many times teachers who bring their classes into natural settings say that the troublemaker in class is the very one that turns out to have leadership qualities in the woods," he said.

Sarah Milligan-Toffler, executive director of the Children and Nature Network, a nonprofit organization, said that getting kids connected to nature doesn't have to mean a major outing.

"There is something about natural environments that is really stress-reducing," she said, "even if it's just 10 minutes a day in a neighborhood park or planting a pollinator garden."

Many botanical gardens, parks and nature centers offer after-school and weekend programs, and are helping schools bring environmental awareness into the classroom, too.

Schools in Mamaroneck, New York, for example, have worked with a local nature preserve in the last few years to get kids from preschool to high school outside for science, said the district's assistant superintendent for curriculum, Annie Ward.

"I know we're in a time of standards, and so forth, but how do we help kids grow up with a sense of place, of regional identity?" she said. "Especially now, with all these issues being talked about — the rise of technology, of kids being hyper-scheduled — there's particular power in being outside, in being close, careful observers of the natural world. There's a sense of calm and a sense of being unplugged."

Naturalists come to school and prepare kids and teachers for field trips, Ward said. Third-graders go to a nearby beach to learn about tidal ecosystems. Fifth-graders take pond samples to study under microscopes. High school students in an advanced-placement environment class helped to remove invasive plants from a meadow at the preserve.

Nationally, a federal program, Every Kid in the Park, offers free admission to national parks and other public lands to the families of all fourth-graders.

And many schools are beginning to realize the value of green schoolyards or gardens.

"Schools are public lands accessible to children, and too often the yards consist of a blacktop that's locked up at night," Milligan-Toffler said.

Louv's latest book outlines ways that families can advocate for more green space in schools and form networks of families interested in



Teachers and educational experts say it's more important today, given the rise of technology and screen time, for kids to get outside and experience nature all year long.

Photo courtesy The New York Botanical Garden via AP

getting outdoors. Particularly for older kids, he said, outings are more enticing if their peers go, too.

For parents looking for places to go as a family, Nature Rocks, a program of the Nature Conservancy, has a website where you plug in your location and the weather, and it will list ideas.

The Children and Nature Network also has a list of groups interested in getting outdoors on its website.

Louv said that kids don't need to come inside just because of cold or rain; they just need to dress accordingly. In winter, he suggests, carry a fold-up magnifying glass to examine snowflakes; build igloos or snow forts; or go sledding or snowshoeing.

And even when kids are stuck indoors, they can start a windowsill garden, or put together an aquarium or terrarium.

"It isn't about going back to nature, but forward," he said.

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Photo courtesy of Target via AP

With storage at a premium in most dorm rooms, an over-the-door, full-length mirror hides a storage area for toiletries, jewelry and other items.

# Dorm *decor* hacks

By KIM COOK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moving into a dorm is one of college life's most exciting milestones; it's the first time many kids are living away from the comfy confines of home.

But the thrill can wane when the dormitory door opens. Most dorm rooms are pretty basic, with plain furniture and institutional floors and walls.

So how do you take a room from spartan to snazzy when most of the budget is going to meal plans and books?

"No matter how small and cramped your dorm room may be, you can still find cute ways to store all your stuff — without spending a ton on organizers and decor," Seventeen magazine editor Kristin Koch said.

She and stylist Sarah

## Try these fun ideas to add flair to the basic, college cinder-block room

Newell suggest creating a floating shelf out of a magazine file box, and turning clear plastic paint cans into storage for hair accessories or school supplies.

Repurposing and rethinking are the keys to good hacks.

Tikva Morrow is editor in chief at Hometalk.com, a New York-based, do-it-yourself home and garden website. She said it's tempting to load up on kitschy decor, but that's a budget sucker.

"DIY some pretty embellishments of your own instead," she said. "Bring along a few rolls of washi tape for wall decor and

picture displays, and make a few large prints for walls."

Decorative tape and fabric can also be used to jazz up shelving and built-ins.

Is that your roommate's laptop charger, or yours? Identify the cords and accessories by wrapping them with colorful tape, stylist and HGTV.com contributor Michelle Edgemont said. She also suggests adding the tape to a plain Jane table, or closet door.

Look online for instructions on how to make no-sew or simple-sew pillows with old T-shirts or sweaters.

"Cute throw pillows are easy to make, and even a

headboard can be DIY-ed using a large piece of cardboard, some fabric and a hot glue gun," Morrow said.

Shower stall caddies can be hung on a door or wall to corral loose items, said Gurl.com's Jessica Booth.

And organization blogger Laura Wittman said shower-curtain rings can turn ordinary hangers into scarf and belt organizers.

Or use the rings to hang fabric or curtains over existing dorm blinds, personalizing your windows.

Dorm floors are pretty institutional, but students don't want to spend money on nice rugs that will get lots of wear and tear. On



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Photo courtesy of Fiskars via AP

Old magazine pages can be recycled to frame a corkboard or mirror as a way to personalize a basic dorm item.

Hometalk.com, Brooke Bock shares how she made a shaggy throw rug using a piece of non-slip rug matting and recycled sheet scraps.

On the same site, Sarah Ramberg contributed the

idea of turning a silverware tray into a jewelry holder using paint, stencils and cup hooks.

A silverware tray tucked into a drawer makes good hideaway storage for keys,

ID cards, sunglasses and electronics.

Design duo Zest It Up suggests creating an artsy, no-maintenance indoor garden by painting smooth rocks and planting them as faux

cacti in a cool pot.

In many dorms, beds are on lofts over desks or storage areas, said Target stylist (and recent UCLA graduate) Tiffany Ma. She recommended using Target's Room Essentials Micro Fiber Sheets with side pockets: "It's like

having your own floating nightstand to hold your phone, tablet, book or glasses. You can get your exercise walking to class, instead of climbing up and down from your bunk."

The retailer also has an over-the-door, full-length mirror with built-in

**This shaggy throw rug was made from recycled sheet scraps. Old T-shirts or other fabrics could also be used to create this unique piece of dorm decor.**

Photo courtesy of Artistic Endeavors 101 via AP



organizer.

"There's nothing more boring than the typical cinder-block dorm-room wall — they're almost impossible to nail or screw into, plus you don't want to get in trouble for marking them up," Ma said.

Consider a colorful tapestry or a mural photo-printed with a "view": a city at night, a scene from some faraway land, a serene nature-escape. Attach the cloth with non-marking adhesive strips.

When you're doing the school-supply run, grab some extra sticky notepads. Pinterest is full of ideas for wall art made with the sticky notes. And instructions for crafting decorative flowers are at post-it.com.

Or create a framed corkboard or mirror using rolled-up magazine pages and Mod Podge. Using a paper punch, turn metallic or paper cupcake holders into frilly foils for string lights; Los Angeles designer Emma Jeffery shows how at fiskars.com.

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AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Courtney Hartman poses for a photo with her children Lois, 2, and Declan, 4, as they wear gender-neutral clothing.

## Line between boys' and girls' clothing beginning to blur

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO  
AP RETAIL WRITER

Pink for girls. Truck motifs for boys. A growing number of parents want to get outside those parameters when it comes to dressing their kids.

Kristin Higgins was adamant about not pushing "girly" stereotypes on her daughter, and painted her room in shades of green. Higgins later dressed her up in

superhero costumes. But as her daughter got older, it took more work to locate items that broke the mold. For "Star Wars"-themed pajamas, she had to go to the boys' section.

"It's hard to find gender-neutral clothing," said Higgins, 35, whose daughter is now 6. "I want her to just get up and put on the clothing without thinking of putting on a costume, an identity."

Shopping for her 7-month-old son, Higgins finds clothes mainly have pictures like fire engines or sharks. What about cats, cupcakes or hearts, she wonders.

For parents looking for clothes that defy gender norms, the options for back-to-school shopping are still limited — but they're growing. Some big retailers like Lands' End and Zara are making small changes to their offerings, while some frustrated parents have launched their own companies to make the items they wanted to find.

"There is really a sharp divide between what is considered girls' stuff and what's considered boys' stuff," said Courtney Hartman. She started Seattle-based Jessy & Jack, a collection of unisex T-shirts for kids that have robots and dinosaurs, and Free to Be Kids, where a shirt with the slogan, "I'm a Cat Guy" comes in blue, gray and yellow.

Companies like Jessy & Jack and a collection called Princess Awesome, where dresses have trains and planes, are among nearly 20 online brands that formed a campaign called Clothes Without Limits last year that they're reprising for the back-to-school season. Still, many of the items are not cheap — T-shirts at \$20 can be pricey for growing kids.

Bigger companies are offering some options, after similar shifts in the toy and bedding aisles to more neutral signs and products. Lands' End launched a

line of science T-shirts two years ago after a customer complained on social media that there was only one version for boys. As part of its new Cat & Jack brand of children's clothing that kids helped design, Target offers unisex-fit T-shirts online with slogans like "Smart & Strong" and "Future Astronaut."

And fast-fashion chain Zara launched a collection in March for teens and older called "Ungendered" under its TRF line, which focuses on basics like T-shirts, sweatshirts and jeans. Experts and parents also notice that some images like dinosaurs are popping up on girls' clothing under the Boden brand and others.

More has changed for girls' clothes than for boys, but the vast majority of children's clothing is still gender-specific, says Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at market research group NPD Group Inc.



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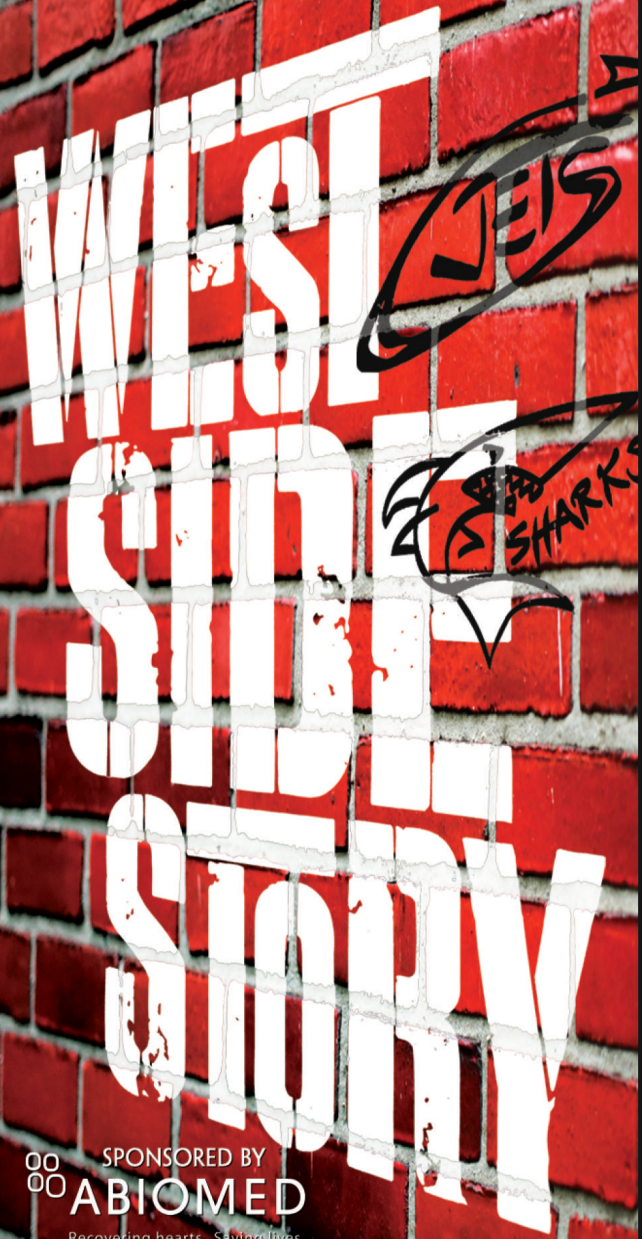


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