



NEW SCHOOLS

Technology, flexible designs are key
SEE PAGE 4

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Respect for Old Glory earns high praise for young patriot

Amy Higgins
Communications director

It takes courage to make change. It also takes a keen eye for the world around you.

Zoey Pol has both.

This slight, blond-haired, blue-eyed third-grader from McKinley Elementary School has all the mindfulness, determination and grit of a watchful serviceman or woman.

Just ask the 100 or so soldiers who held her in high honor at the Army National Guard Armory in Lorain.

You see, last fall, on one of many trips to her grandmother's home in Lorain, Zoey happened to notice a light out on a flag flying at the Armory. She and her brother, Ayden, who attends Eastern Heights Middle School, took note and chatted about flag etiquette, recognizing that Old Glory should be lit at night, if not lowered at sunset.

Zoey decided to write a letter to the city of Lorain, excerpted below.

"My name is Zoey Pol. I live in Elyria, Ohio. My grandparents live in Lorain, Ohio. I pass by the location in our city that trains veterans that serve for our country. They do not have the flag with a light shining on it. I think our city should do something about it. I will be very happy if you do that. It will be like a Christmas present for the city."

Not too much time passed before Zoey got word from Kitt



COURTESY AYDEN POL

In this still frame taken from a video, McKinley third-grader Zoey Pol was recognized in a special ceremony at the Lorain National Guard Armory in February. Zoey earned a challenge coin from the battalion commander for 'going above and beyond' in recognizing and reporting an unlit flag at the Armory.

Koziura, Lorain's assistant deputy auditor. She commended Zoey for her patriotism and courage and promised a fix.

Kitti's kindness and class in sending a hand-written note to a little girl a city away was not lost on Zoey's father, Brad.

"We sometimes get so busy in our day we forget the little things. It was nice to see that somebody

stopped and read the letter and realized the importance of it," he said. "And not just the importance of the letter, but of the child who wrote the letter, and reacted to it in a positive way."

The letter from Kitti wasn't the only surprise.

Days later, another letter arrived. This time it was from Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Harlan.

It read:

"Dear Zoey, I wanted to take the time to thank you for sending your letter to the city of Lorain in regard to our unit's flagpole light. As a dad and soldier to my 11-year-old daughter, it warms my heart when children are able to notice when something is not right with our flag. I try my best to teach her the proper way to

respect the flag so when I see the other kids doing it, then I know that someone special is in their life and is teaching them, as well.

Do you know what a challenge coin is? A Challenge Coin is a coin about the size of a half dollar or a medallion that was presented by commanding officers

See **RESPECT**, 7

A STEM summer is a-comin'

Kathy Koepf

Teaching and learning coordinator

A nationally recognized STEM summer camp is setting up shop in Elyria for the second consecutive year in June and August.

This time around, twice as many kids — more than 200, in fact, grades one through six — will descend on Elyria High School for Camp Invention, a week-long workshop where they dive head-long into the world of science, engineering, technology and math.



Koepf

The camp has been called “extraordinary” because it uses curriculum designed by some of the most brilliant science and math minds in the country from the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

It's only the second year for Camp Invention in Elyria but its popularity spread like wildfire and this year, Camp Invention has opened twice as many slots for the hundreds of children who will participate.

One parent said the camp spurs creativity and problem solving and encourages teamwork.

“My children gained a deeper love for science and engineering, confidence to try new and innovative ideas, made new friendships, and learned science vocabulary and concepts,” she said.

The Camp Invention curriculum this summer is fresh and new.

Among other things, camp-goers will delve into the world of duct tape, designing products they can market and sell to mock investors.

They'll build high-tech bubble blasters and compete with teammates in air battles using physics to boost their advantage.

They'll rely on their mechanical know-how to re-engineer old machines and devices, turning them into spy gadgets.

And they'll hatch eggs, sprout living plants and grow crystal trees while on a mission to prepare a new planet for human habitation.

Sound like fun? We think so, and that's why dozens of Elyria



KATHY KOEPP / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

ABOVE: Camp Invention drew more than 100 elementary students to Elyria High School last summer for a weeklong study on STEM topics. This year the program will accommodate twice as many kids thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

BELOW: Students study subjects like math, science, engineering and technology at Camp Invention, all while having fun.

teachers are signed on to facilitate the Camp Invention workshops in June and August.

Typically Camp Invention costs \$249 per child, but thanks to the generosity of the Community Foundation of Lorain County, Elyria students are attending for free. This is the second year the foundation has fully funded the program. The Community Foundation of Lorain County is a partner of Elyria Schools on many science-based programs throughout the school year.

Another partner, Sodexo, the foodservice provider for Elyria Schools, will provide free lunches for all camp-goers.



COURTESY CAMP INVENTION

Service with a smile at Windsor school

Amy Higgins

Communications director

Every business should hope to function as efficiently and professionally as the Windsor Service Squad.

The employees show up on time. They're courteous and kind to everyone they meet. They dress for success.

They're conscientious about their work, completing every task as meticulously as if accomplishing it for themselves or someone at home.

And what customer wouldn't love them? They charge a mere quarter per job and they eagerly accept customer feedback.

Their motto: "They're here to serve you!" (They place a lot of emphasis on that exclamation point.)

The team positions key people in decision-making capacities such as president, treasurer, secretary, marketing director, human resources director and skilled worker.

The life cycle of their business is what you might call meteoric — they make careful plans, then spend about five days on the business scene before closing up shop.

It's a short-lived business venture, but it's all in the name of learning about what it's like to provide a service.

This classroom project in the

CHECK IT OUT ONLINE

Catch the Service Squad's full story on Elyria Schools Pioneer TV YouTube.

study of economics was the brainchild of intervention specialist Kathy Pero and her colleagues at Windsor's special education program.

The teachers came up with the name "Windsor Service Squad" and they built the classroom business from the ground-up, interviewing students for key positions in the company.

"Our unit was all about economics," Pero said. "We created a business that talks about goods and services, and the students voted on having a service (business).

"They had to make a lot of decisions," she said. "Should we advertise our business through a commercial or a flyer? How should we get the word out? How much will it cost us and how will we collect service tickets?"

The leadership team met each day to devise their business strategy and work out the kinks. They wrote a script for a commercial and had it produced so they could advertise to potential customers.

Their customers were the faculty and staff of Windsor.

"Once the service tickets started



MARTY YADON / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

While studying economics, the Windsor Service Squad built a classroom business based on providing services to customers in need. Their objective was to earn \$15, which they exceeded.

coming in, they were put on a big board," Pero said. "The president called a meeting to order (daily) and we scheduled each student. Different students worked in different areas with coaches.

"We sorted crayons and markers, worked in the main office, took down bulletin boards and put up new ones, read to kindergarten students and helped grade papers," she said. "A variety of services came in from the staff."

Part of the learning process involved talking to real people in

a business setting.

"We interviewed local leaders from across Lorain County and learned what it takes to run a business," Pero said. "We learned how people are hired and what's required to keep a job."

Since the Service Squad would be collecting real payment for work completed, they set a budget to track revenue and expenses. At the end of each day, they tallied their earnings and charted their progress toward their end financial goal: \$15.

"The treasurer helped collect all of the coins and counted the money every day and gave a budget update to the president," Pero said. "Their goal was to make at least \$15. Each employee would earn \$1, with an additional 50 cents for workers with good (customer) survey results.

"They also earmarked \$8 to pay for their own dozen of Pink Cookies," Pero said.

The project culminated with an "office" pizza party and more Pink Cookies.

Discovering kids' hidden talent in Elyria Schools

Michelle Buga

GATE Coordinator

In the Elyria Schools, we are committed to developing the potential of all students. Talent abounds, yet we recognize there are students in our schools with undiscovered areas of giftedness. While any student can be referred for gifted assessment at any time, talented students may fly under the radar, leaving them at risk for underachievement.

The Ohio Department of Education's newly adopted operating standards for identifying and serving students who are gifted requires Ohio school districts to provide two whole grade screening opportunities for gifted identification in the areas of superior cognition, reading, math and creativity.

Beginning next school year, all



Buga

students in first and fourth grades will be assessed for gifted identification in the areas listed above. Parents will have the option to decline gifted assessment. The referral form

for gifted assessment for all students can be found on the Elyria Schools website under District >> Academic Services >> Parent and Family Resources >> Gifted Services.

More information about gifted education in Ohio can be found at <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Gifted-Education/Resources-for-Parents>.



MICHELLE BUGA / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

The Gifted and Talented program of Elyria Schools offers an exciting, challenging curriculum.

New schools: A look into the future

Jack Dibee

Ely School principal

A few weeks ago, I accompanied the district's architect to central Ohio to visit two newly opened schools designed as 21st century learning facilities. The visits were recommended by our partner, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, which serves as a co-owner on the new school project.

When we arrived at our first stop, West Muskingum Elementary School, I knew right away we were in for a special day. The school serves nearly 550 kindergarten to fourth-grade students. Instead of traditional hallways and rows of self-contained classrooms in a box, we saw some amazing features.



Dibee

Each grade housed its own learning community in a pod. The learning communities contained their own restrooms, five learning studios (traditional classroom size), five or six small-group rooms (used for projects, itinerant teachers and meetings), as well as teacher work areas and storage space for student items and instructional materials.

The big centers, or pods, of each grade level's community allowed for flexible grouping, large-group activities, special events and many other uses. Most of the furniture in the learning studios and smaller rooms was on wheels for ease of movement.

The building is designed for wireless technology throughout, and Chromebooks, laptops and handheld devices were plentiful. There were learning stations staged for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and literacy.

The learning studios had "front porches" where kids could be working outside of the classroom, but still under the teacher's supervision.

Safety and security measures included things like secured entrances, security cameras and a main entrance with full line of sight to visitors entering and exiting the building. The community spaces included locking doors with secure areas, and the ability to lock off areas from the main corridor.

Discussions with the teachers gave us a glimpse into how much

they enjoyed the new opportunities their building provided. Teachers shared statistical data that showed their students learning at a much higher rate than in traditional classrooms.

This school's construction design maximized instructional space and eliminated long hallways that take up square footage.

A new district, a new learning community

After leaving West Muskingum, we headed to New Albany, Ohio, to a large campus spanning preschool through high school.

In the main office of the New Albany campus, Superintendent Michael Sawyers, a former Elyria resident, greeted us and guided us to the district's new building for second to eighth grade.

At this school, we again saw the 21st century learning communities concept, but in a different format. Here each community encompassed more than one grade. The rooms featured garage doors for classroom walls and the pod areas contained more flexible spaces (couches, tables, etc.) for student group work. Additionally, there were several environmentally friendly spaces such as a greenhouse, roof garden, recycling center, and areas specifically designated for community use.

Once again, we saw large areas reserved for learning, not hallways.

Traditional buildings, such as Ely Elementary, see lots of square footage eaten up by hallways. Ely, for instance, links classrooms by 12,000 square feet of hallway. Using an average of 800 square feet for a traditional classroom, that's space enough for another 15 classrooms!

Technology was a major component in the design of the New Albany school, and it was clearly incorporated across the building and grade levels. In fact, wires and networking were clearly visible in the ceilings and not hidden by tiles. This style of design adds to the overall learning environment by giving students a look at and understanding of how things work.

21st century learning

What are the 21st century skills for students? The four main skills according to Envision Experience

See **FUTURE**, 5



JACK DIBEE / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS

ABOVE: Large open areas like this one at West Muskingum Elementary School serve as community space for students and classroom 'pods' branch off.

BELOW: Large common areas at the New Albany school campus encourage collaboration and 'garage door' walls to the adjoining classroom spaces can remain open so teachers can view the area.



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME



JACK DIBEE / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

ABOVE: New schools like these offered flexible furniture with wheels for easy movement and various degrees of comfort.

BELOW: Entrances are secure and offer unrestricted views of visitors entering and existing the building.



Architect and builder hired for new schools



AMY HIGGINS

The Elyria city school district and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, aka OFCC, have all the pieces in place to design and build five new schools in Elyria.

Architectural Vision Group, of Westlake, the firm that designed the new Elyria High School, was hired in February to oversee the project through design and construction.

Architectural Vision Group also will design a new athletic complex at the existing south Elyria site of Ely Stadium.

Just this month the district and the OFCC selected AECOM Technical Services Inc., of Cleveland, as construction manager at risk, the builder of the new schools.

Voters approved a bond issue in November to rebuild the district's elementary and middle schools. The plan calls for:

- A K-4 elementary school on the site of Ely Elementary (Gulf Road).
- A K-4 elementary school on the site of Hamilton School (Middle Avenue).
- A K-8 campus on the site of Eastern Heights Middle School (Garford Avenue).
- A PreK-8 campus on the site of Pioneer Soccer Field (Abbe Road).
- A K-8 campus on the site of Crestwood Elementary and the Administration Building (Griswold Road).

The scope of work also includes remodeling Westwood

Middle School as an administration and maintenance center and abating and demolishing the existing elementary and middle schools throughout Elyria.

Residents will recall the OFCC partnered with the district on the first phase of the master plan, which rebuilt Elyria High School in 2010. The state paid 39 percent of the project costs then.

To finish the job with five new elementary and middle schools, the state will pay 67 percent, or nearly \$80 million, of the \$119 million project.

In June the district and the OFCC will host three educational visioning workshops. These sessions will help guide staff, students and community members in designing and planning their new schools to meet students' needs now and in the future.

For more information on the visioning process or to learn how to get involved, call (440) 284-8183.

For a preliminary timeline of construction events, visit www.elyriaschools.org under the heading "Facilities Master Plan" on the homepage.

Amy Higgins is communications director at Elyria Schools.

FUTURE

From 4

are:

- Collaboration and teamwork.
- Creativity and imagination.
- Critical thinking.
- Problem solving.

Educators in Elyria are highly skilled in teaching advanced material in progressive ways with the latest technology. They've already embraced the learning beliefs and styles of 21st century education, and are incorporating

them daily in our existing schools. But as we build new schools in Elyria, we have the rare opportunity to design learning environments that will best meet the needs of 21st century learners. This will require a shift in thinking from what many of us experienced in our school days.

Consider this: We are educating students for jobs that haven't even been created yet! Our new facilities will lead to endless opportunities for our students and teachers.

Elyria High JROTC is pride of community

Amy Higgins
Communications director

You'd be hard-pressed to find a more active group in the community than the Elyria High School JROTC.

Whether they're at parades, festivals or special events — celebratory or solemn — the JROTC cadets know they have a revered and respected role.

This school year alone, the 136 cadets in EHS JROTC have participated in 75 events. Most recently they competed against Midview and Lorain high schools in the Lorain County JROTC drill meet at Midview.

The meet was a first of its kind for all three high schools because it was the first to pit the three Lorain County units against each other.

"Even though we've competed with them, it's always been in front of other schools — Marine, Air Force and Navy schools — so there's really never been a one-on-one competition for Lorain County schools," said Lt. Col. Roy Jenkins, commander of the EHS JROTC. "I think this might be the beginning of a strong competition rivalry between our three schools, and in fact, we may do this at Elyria and at Lorain High next time."

CHECK IT OUT ONLINE

Watch the EHS JROTC in lockstep at Midview on Elyria Schools Pioneer TV on YouTube.

The JROTC may often be looked at as sort of a prep program for students interested in military careers after high school, but that's not really the case.

"We cover certain mandatory subjects so it's not about drilling and wearing a uniform," Lt. Col. Jenkins said. "It's about how to be successful in life. Our mission is to motivate young people to be better citizens. We do that by teaching them how to make decisions and how to deal with adversity and conflict."

"We want cadets to be able to take a mission they are given, execute it and evaluate how well they did on it," he said. "We want them to be able to think on their own."

It's these lessons that count in the real world, Lt. Col. Jenkins said.

"In a few short years they'll be out on their own. They need to be able to make decisions and act," he said. "They've got to think about what they do and what the repercussions are if they do it."



MARTY YADON / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

ABOVE: Elyria High School JROTC cadets competed in the Lorain County JROTC Drill Meet at Midview High School in March. They earned numerous first, second and third place distinctions.

BELOW: The Elyria High School JROTC is a presence at many special events.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

The Elyria High School JROTC unfurls and raises the flag at the EHS graduation ceremony last year.

"We cover certain mandatory subjects so it's not about drilling and wearing a uniform. It's about how to be successful in life. Our mission is to motivate young people to be better citizens. We do that by teaching them how to make decisions and how to deal with adversity and conflict."

Lt. Col. Roy Jenkins,
EHS JROTC commander

A song of service for the Special Olympics

Amy Higgins

Communications director

"If you want to help others by running or jumping around, we have something that's so much fun."

This line straight from the hearts of about 10 athletes in the Lorain County Special Olympics is part of a song and video they produced to inspire volunteers to get involved in the annual event.

The Lorain County Special Olympics, set for Friday, May 12, at Ely Stadium, is in its 37th year. Last year, 568 athletes from across the county competed in the track and field events, and more than 300 adult and student volunteers helped out.

To inspire that same kind of volunteerism this year, and to send a message about expectations, the student athletes created a video that gets right to the point about what jobs need filling and tips for having a great game-day experience.

"Pay attention," the athletes advise volunteers, and, "keep athletes busy."

"Get athletes engaged and treat them all the same," they said.

The idea for the video was born from a conversation between two special education teachers: Kevin Corp, Elyria High School, and Karen Hahn, Eastern Heights Middle School.

While trying to recruit middle schools students to work at the Special Olympics this year, Hahn thought it would be helpful to have a video that was twofold: an



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Many hands make light work at the Special Olympics. Volunteers can help out in a variety of ways like assisting athletes in track and field events or helping organizers with stat keeping or coordinating competition events.

introduction to the athletes themselves and an overview of what being a volunteer would entail.

She bounced the idea off Kevin Corp and he and his afternoon class at Elyria High School ran with it.

They clued the Elyria Special Olympics committee in on their plans and got to work research-

ing and writing.

"Karen wanted her kids (student volunteers) to be comfortable with who they'd be working with (at the Special Olympics), and so we decided to make the video," said Kevin Corp, EHS teacher, Special Education.

Besides boosting the volunteer base and putting helpers at ease on the job, the project was a

valuable educational experience.

"My students had to research the history of the Special Olympics and write the script," Corp said. "They also had to brainstorm, make revisions, memorize their lines and rehearse them. There were many Language Arts components."

A partnership with Lakewood's Beck Center came in handy

while producing the theme song of the video.

Corp's class has been working with the Beck Center for several years through a grant, bringing music therapy to students in the EHS special education program. Anthony Steward, a music therapist who's been working with Corp's afternoon class this year, offered to help the students write lyrics for a song to accompany the video.

Steward sings it in the background while the video credits roll. He and the class have even bigger plans for the song they wrote together: they're producing a music video later this year.

The teamwork that went in to producing this three and half minute video was tremendous, drawing on the expertise of many individuals, including Jim Kistler, EHS teacher who edited and produced the final video product.

"Several of the students in my afternoon class are also involved in sign choir and so we're working with Kristen Metz (Elyria Schools Autism Specialist and Sign Choir Director) to put the signs to the lyrics," Corp said. "The project promotes the Special Olympics, certainly, but it's just so cool how so many people pulled together to help my class out."

So as the song says, "If you want to be the very best person you can be," help out at the Special Olympics on May 12, email steeleerica@elyriaschools.org.

RESPECT

From 1

to soldiers that go above and beyond their duty and great things result from their actions. Our battalion commander would like to present one for you for your great work and for raising awareness about our light issue."

Sgt. Harlan invited Zoey and her family to the Armory for a special ceremony to receive a Challenge Coin in front of the entire formation of Lorain soldiers.

"There were over 100 soldiers there," Zoey said. "They would go in a horseshoe and they gave me the coin. I had to shake their

hand and grab it. After that, I gave a speech and then they lined up single file and shook my hand.

"There was a lot of hands," she acknowledged. "A lot of hands."

Zoey made a special request of the battalion commander. She asked to share her coin with her brother, since he, too, noticed the unlit flag.

The commander did one better than that. He gave Ayden his own Challenge Coin, and brother and sister both received real Army hats that had their last name, "Pol," embroidered neatly on the back.

"The soldiers were extremely accommodating, so they completely put us at ease, making us

CHECK IT OUT ONLINE

For the full story on Zoey's patriotism, see Pioneer TV on YouTube.

feel at home," Brad said. "We felt honored the minute we walked into the Armory.

"I'm very proud of the kids," he said. "And I was glad to see Zoey take things in her own hands. It's great to see patriotism in your kids. That's important, and we sometimes forget our patriotism.

"And the best thing about the whole story was in the end, the light was fixed the very next day," Brad said.



COURTESY AYDEN POL

Zoey and her brother Ayden, a student at Eastern Heights Middle School, each received a challenge coin and an Army hat personalized with their last name embroidered on the back.



The Herald

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

ELYRIA HIGH SCHOOL, ELYRIA, OHIO

SPRING 2017

Five wonders of EHS Sew creative

Ashley Moen
Herald reporter

Elyria High School was founded in 1830, and was the first chartered high school west of the Allegheny Mountains. For a school so old, it's only natural that it has a few wonders.

■ **The Washington Building ghosts.** Built in 1894, the Washington Building is on the National Register of Historic Places, meaning this building is really old. It has seen countless students through its halls. It would not be surprising to see some ghosts in these halls as well. Teachers have even reported pictures on their walls falling down when no one was near them. Even scarier, the pictures were leaning against the wall and fell forward! Normally they could slide down if they were leaning against the wall. These pictures falling could be the cause of a bad tape job or a small gust of wind, although for this to continually happen, it seems unlikely. Perhaps a ghost is responsible for these weird activities. The Washington Building Ghosts are indeed a mystery.

■ **Pink cookies. Who hasn't heard of the Elyria Schools pink cookies?** After all, they are a more than 40-year-old tradition. They were removed from the cafe serving line because they did not fit national school lunch program guidelines. This caused quite an uproar with students and other people who greatly enjoyed the yummy snack. Indeed, these cookies are quite a wonder. But did you know you can still get them? Yes, you can indeed find these delicious treats. They will be sold during some special events, such as the Apple Festival if you know where to look, and by calling the Elyria Schools food-service department Monday through Friday during the school year.

■ **Greenhouse.** Greenhouse?



PHOTO COURTESY LORAIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Washington Building was built in 1894 and EHS was chartered in 1830 as the first high school west of the Alleghenies.

What does that have to do with EHS? Wait, what? We have a greenhouse? Yes, there is a greenhouse at EHS. It can be seen from the main courtyard and is in room 235B. It can only be accessed through certain classrooms. Many students will go throughout their high school life without even knowing that the school has a greenhouse. The greenhouse is used, and in fact in 2011, the greenhouse was used to grow plants to give to seniors. The greenhouse was designed to be used for hands-on learning. While the greenhouse is not a real mystery, many students do not even know it exists, making it quite a wonder.

■ **The Page.** The Page is a creative writing publication that is published every year. However,

there has not been a publication for a long time. Information about the Page cannot be found easily, however, the name can. The Page can be seen on the EHS Wikipedia page online and occasionally it makes its way into conversations. Very few people still know why the Page stopped publishing, making the publication a ghost within the school. ■ **Heart of EHS.** Did you know that EHS is powered by geothermic wells? The school takes heat from the Earth and turns it into usable energy at a very inexpensive cost. Although the wells cannot be seen, they are used to help heat and cool the school. These wells are eco-friendly and don't give off any additional gases. The wells are the very heart of EHS.

Sabrina Knowlton
Herald reporter

The art of sewing is a disappearing skill. Some individuals are still hanging on and have reached out to family and friends that can give them the tools and tips they need to learn the trade.

Sewing at home can be quite useful, especially if a small hole needs repaired in an expensive piece of clothing. Take that designer jacket, for instance, that might have been counted out due to an unattractive hole in the seam and with repair, can once more put the extra edge on an outfit.

On a larger scale, if a dance is approaching and that perfect dress is simply nonexistent, a seamstress can conjure up exactly what you are looking for with the right fabric and pattern.

This is a common cause-and-effect scenario for three teens in our own hometown.

Three seniors are on the lookout for a combination of patterns and fabrics that scream, "Me."

These students are preparing for prom and it's time for them to use all of the tricks and creativity they've fine-tuned over the years.

High school senior Tatianna Bohannon has been sewing for six years, having started seventh grade. She became interested in sewing when she saw many cool DIY sewing projects on Pinterest. Tatianna often sews with her grandma and great aunt, making quilts, bags, dresses, and more.

If you want to find out what her favorite fabric print is, she will tell you, "It depends on the project and what it will be used for."

Though her talents are certainly worthy to put to use in

the career of fashion design, Tatianna has instead chosen to keep her talents a hobby with pleasant memories.

Ginny Behmer also has a full plate in the next few months. Behmer plans to shake things up a bit and make a formal jumpsuit instead of the more common prom dress. Ginny grew up in a setting where sewing was familiar, sewing alongside her beloved mother. To this day she will tell you her mother is her inspiration in the field of sewing.

Together these two have made a mark on fashion, designing a complete line of bridesmaid dresses.

Judging by Ginny's unwavering interest in fabrics with a pattern (as opposed to solid colors), her jumpsuit will stand in all its glory as a piece of art!

Our final seamstress is Sarah Hamilton. Sarah is proud to say that she began sewing in the third grade while figuring out how to sew her Girl Scout patches onto her uniform. She is self-taught and far from an amateur sewer.

Sarah has worked on many projects ranging from bags to dresses and Halloween costumes. Sarah frequently works without a store-bought pattern and instead makes her own. This spring Sarah will likely have quite a dress to show off.

These girls have helped sewing continue to shine, making dresses that will certainly inspire others to make clothing and accessories that are one of a kind. Such talent can absolutely show an individual's unique personality and style.