

# FASHION

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## Back-to-school: Form-fitting fashion out

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**BUCKHANNON** — The form-fitting clothing of 2014 is out, and loose, flowing pieces are here to stay, especially for this year's back-to-school season.

Classy and relaxed looks, as well as those that are boho-chic, are a few of the styles worn by students today. While individual preference varies, the consensus is in: dressing to fit your personality makes you comfortable and confident, no matter the situation at hand.

Buckhannon-Upshur High School senior Tyler Boyd, dressed in a button-down shirt and flat-front shorts, believes looking nice sets you up for success.

"If you feel you look nice, it builds your confidence at school, and at school, a lot of stuff is thrown at you," he said. "But if you feel confident in yourself, then you're good."

More in line with his personality, however, he said he'd wear a 1960s suit, a hat and a bow tie every day if he could.

Maty Swartz, a junior at West Virginia Wesleyan College, also expresses her personality by pulling inspiration from all things vintage. She often pairs floral prints with boots, her fall staple, and tops the look with another unique accessory or two.

"I like things that are different and unique, that sort of give off a vintage '90s vibe," she said. "When I go back to school I always think of fall, so I look for nice transition outfits — not really too warm for summer, but at the same time incorporating a lot of fall colors, like dark reds and neutrals."

"A new year brings new changes. If you want to update your look or change it in any way, that gives you room to do so, because it's a new year, it's a fresh start. You can do whatever you want."

WVWC sophomore Sarah Smith typically updates her look by introducing one color of significance. That special hue can appear noticeably, such as on a belt, or more subtly, such as on a ring or even in her liquid eyeliner.

"I love the rich colors this season," she said. "Everything goes from spring, being light and airy, to fall, when it gets down to the rich saturation of colors. They just accent and pop, and you can pair them with anything."

Ready for her radio broadcasting class, Smith wore a white tank top, a beige jacket, a black, flouncy skirt — all neutral basics — with teal, her marked pop of color, on her belt and

shoes, giving her the classy feeling she strives for daily.

"When you look nice, you feel better and you're more motivated to just attack everything," she said. "If you wear pajamas, for example, you're going to feel sleepy, but there's no falling asleep wearing heels like these."

"Fall is perfect for mixing different tones of green," she added. "The colors all around you are changing, so you can change too."

As Smith's shoes were the focal point of her outfit, teal and turquoise colors are the focus this season, according to the owner of a local boutique.

Jennifer Fluke owns Caroline's Closet, located in Northridge Plaza. In her shop, buyers are seeking green hues, maxi skirts, long necklaces and fringed, loose, flowing items, playing into the recent bohemian trend.

"Anything boho-chic is huge, and there's so many ways to go with that style," Fluke said. "Everything's just really flowy, and that's where the boho influence comes in, because it's not about that tight fitted look anymore; it's a very loose and comfortable and fun kind of style."

One of the store's highly favored dresses — a boho shift with bell sleeves, adorned with lace — was purchased by Lily Hicks, another B-UHS senior. Hicks wore the dress with a flat pair of sandals. She sums up her style as "casual classy."

"You really show your personality by the type of clothes you buy and how you present yourself," she said. "Now that we're seniors, people kind of look up to us; you have to look the part."

Others are sporting more of a relaxed, minimalist street style, wearing v-necks, denim shirts and plaids, which Fluke said are also popular. Students like James Young and Dan Quattro, two seniors at WVWC, and Desirae Lindow, a sophomore at B-UHS, are prime examples.

It seems no look is entirely off the table this season. That could add difficulty to Fluke's job: predicting style as it evolves.

She's armed herself with a plethora of magazines — Harper's Bazaar, Marie Claire, Vogue — geared toward fall and the seasons ahead. Each rag will aid her in navigating the world of fashion.

"I'll be doing my research," she said as she motioned toward a stack of magazines. "These tell you all the fall fashions and they'll take you into next year as well, to tell you what the trends will be coming up. I have more than enough to read through."



Blake Williams  
sharp, confident



Maty Swartz  
vintage vibe



Kaitlynn Critchfield  
classy pearls, always



Desirae Lindow  
relaxed street style



Tyler Boyd  
comfortable



Lily Hicks  
loose, flowy looks



James Young, Dan Quattro  
ready to chill



Sarah Smith  
accessories that pop