PERSONAL

touch

Students discuss how they express their personalities

"I didn't have a shirt that went with the shorts that I wanted to wear. I saw a pair of black leggings and I cut a slit down the center and messed around with it and turned them into an off the shoulder shirt."
- Hailey Stewart '20

"They are fuzzy socks with cats on them, and I like them because they are super comfortable. They're insanely cheap to make and I have around six pairs. I am obsessed with them."
- Taylor Thompson '20

"When I decided to make my own homecoming dress I went to the store, and I found two different patterns that I liked, so I put them together. I will probably make my senior prom dress because I really liked the outcome."
- Lauren Keeney '20

Fashion **DIY**

materials needed:
jeans
fabric scissors
tweezers

step 1
Draw horizontal lines on the jeans where you want it to be ripped.

step 2
Cut along the lines with the fabric scissors.

step 3
Pull out the blue vertical threads with tweezers.

step 4
Pull out the white horizontal threads with the tweezers to create the look you want.

Gunner Avis '19

thinking outside the **BOX**
HAIR DYE

"It's simple to match because most of my outfits are neutral colors anyways."
-Leia Payton '21

"When I color my hair, it gives me more confidence. I think normal colored hair is boring."
- Kallypso Essen '19

Back *to* SCHOOL

"I put pins on my backpack because it's easy to identify, and it makes my basic backpack not so basic. The collection is slowly growing."
- Noah Hensley '19

"About a year ago, I started collecting stickers from everywhere that I went. I have a Michael Scott one and it's my favorite."
- Ellie Mirfeild '20

"I have stickers, subs, lights, a roof rack, tires and rims on my Jeep. I add stuff to my vehicle because it makes it stick out."
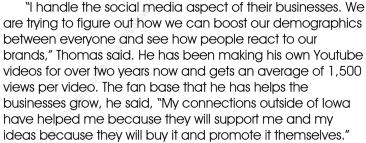**- Grant Baker '19**

CLOTHING CAREERS

Students talk about the behind the scenes aspect of their own clothing brands

Wouldn't it be cool if you were your own boss and designer? There are students within West that are and most of us don't even know it. Senior **Ben Graham** has had his own clothing brand for over a year. Graham said, "My brand is called '6 days' and I go for the street-wear look." He noticed that there wasn't an affordable clothing line that fit his style, so he made his own. Graham uses his peers around him for inspiration, "I get ideas from what people around me are wearing and what other companies are making but then I add my own taste to it." Senior **Alex Russell** also has his own clothing brand.

"During the summer, I started my own online business and it completely failed. Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to create a business of some sort. When the online one didn't work out, I just decided to do something more my style - a clothing brand." Instead of giving up, Russell took the experience and used it as motivation. His target audience is the skateboarding group. He recognized that skating was getting more and more popular, and took advantage of it. "I look at Zumiez and other brands, like Thrasher, and I pick up their vibe in my own clothes," Russell said. Although senior **Xavier Thomas** doesn't own his own business, he is still a big contributor to Graham's and Russell's.

"I handle the social media aspect of their businesses. We are trying to figure out how we can boost our demographics between everyone and see how people react to our brands," Thomas said. He has been making his own Youtube videos for over two years now and gets an average of 1,500 views per video. The fan base that he has helps the businesses grow, he said, "My connections outside of Iowa have helped me because they will support me and my ideas because they will buy it and promote it themselves."

After high school, Thomas plans on attending Columbia College Chicago and major in Social Media Marketing. Graham also has the intention of pursuing his clothing business. "I really want to continue doing this in the future and eventually make a living out of it," he said.

Story by Madi Dohrmund

Ben Graham

Alex Russell

Xavier Thomas

Customized *kicks*

Students talk about their customized shoes

"I took a shoe that everyone has and turned it into one that no one has. Sunflowers are also the prettiest and most unique flower." **-Leah Anderson '19**

"The pins are the only reason that I got my Crocs. I think they're really fun and personal. So far, I have a volleyball, tennis ball, and Olaf." **-Molly Daily '21**

"I have a lot of shoes. My favorite pair that I have are Jordan Eclipse that I customized, and they have my initials on them." **-Draven Ramirez '19**

25