

Girls' Clothing

We provide clothing for kids from kindergarten to 6th grade and their ages are approximately 5-11. Here is our suggested age, grade and size guidelines:

Kindergarten age 5 size 5

1st grade age 6 size 6-7

2nd grade age 7 size 6-7

3rd grade age 8 size 8-10

4th grade age 9 size 10-12

5th grade age 10 size 10-12

6th grade age 11 size 12-14

Of course, we realize this is our best guess as girls come in all sizes. We generally have sizes from 4 to a few Adult small, medium and large. If we follow these guidelines for styles, colors, fabric and pattern choices hopefully we will come close to having clothing choices for everyone and the styles won't change too much before next July. We truly appreciate everything you all do to create the best of items for the kids.

Please use the fabric and patterns we provide. If you want to purchase these items, please make sure they are like the items we provide. In others words, do not use your stash or donated fabric. Our goal is to have trendy, current styles. If you see a pattern you like, please email or text me the number and I will look to purchase the pattern when it is on sale.

CHECK YOUR CREATIONS FOR STRAIGHT PINS AND CLIP ALL YOUR THREADS. Our goal is to have quality looking clothing. Please finish your seams; if you don't have a serger, then use a tight zig-zag on the seams to prevent the fabric from fraying.

Since the clothes cannot be tried on, use caution when using zippers and buttons as the clothing needs to be loose fitting. We do have size 14" zippers in stock. A keyhole opening with a button in the back is a great alternative, just make sure it will go over their heads and they can put their arms in the sleeves. Form fitting just does not work! Knit fabric is very popular and can be very forgiving when sizing. You can use knit fabric for a cotton pattern but **NEVER, NEVER** cotton fabric for a knit pattern. We always have some clothing we have to discard.

We need to limit the sizes of t-shirt dresses. T-shirts in size 6-8 are perfect, but the larger sizes are not. The skirts are too full in sizes 10 and up and look dowdy and frumpy. Our goal is to have the best, trendy styles and these sizes do not meet our

goals. No more ruffling of the neckline and hems or cold shoulder on the t-shirts as it is no longer popular with the kids. Also do NOT add buttons and trims to the t-shirts.

Please use wider elastic, 3/8" for sleeve and neck gathering, 1/2" for waist in dresses and 3/4" for skirt waist. We have elastic in stock. We have found that 1/4" elastic rolls easily and is hard to work with.

The pattern on the fabric needs to be correct for the size; no little girl print for a larger size skirt/dress. We understand that some little girls may wear a large size but we had several little girls' prints (ages 6 and 7) in sizes 14 and up and these items remained on the racks. Please note that on our shelves we have separated the fabric.

Please do not make skirts where the waist and hem bands are different fabrics or multi-fabric panel skirts. We had many requests for all the same style fabric (easier to match to a top). Skirt fabric needs to be a heavier fabric. Kona cotton is good but no cotton classic or keepsake cotton as it is too thin.

For skirt sizes 10 and larger, you can have elastic on the sides or back, instead of the whole way around. Please make sure the top spacing on the elastic (if you choose to do that) is no more than 1/4 inch. The girls did not like the large ruffle on the top of the waistband.

The younger girls (sizes 5-8) still prefer dresses or matching tops/skirts. If you are not creating a top, please attach a piece of fabric (as large as possible) so we can applique a t-shirt to match. All appliques need to be sewn on and no large pieces, the applique needs to be a smaller shape as the larger pieces wrinkle when laundered.

Per the schools, the shoulder fabric needs to be at least 2 inches wide, no pillowcase dresses, sun dresses or open/cut out backs.

We have stated this many times in the past and since it is not being used correctly we are really stressing it this year NO LACE, RICRAC OR POMPOMS! These items will be discarded.

Make sure the garment looks good on the hanger as that is the first view our girl will see. Also make sure the hanger fits the garment. We had items falling off the hanger or the clothing was smashed together because the hanger was too small. Remember this is the first view! We have plenty of hangers, especially the larger size.

What is trendy?? The next time you are in a store, take a few minutes to look at the racks of clothing for sizes 5-12, snap a picture, and then help us look for a pattern to duplicate that style.

Boys' Clothing

Boys really like the button-down dress shirts that we create and we always run out by the 2nd afternoon. Our biggest need is sizes 8-12. We have fabric, patterns and buttons at the BTSCD office. We purchase matchbox cars for the pocket (pinned in) as an extra treat. Over the years we have found several short cuts, including a 1-step serged collar! We have some tips on our website or ask for a one-on-one class. **As in previous years**, if you make the dress shirt I will put in the buttonholes and buttons. The only thing I ask is to use white or black thread so I can match the thread on the buttonholes. If you feel it needs a different colored thread, then included the thread with your shirts so the shirts will not have different threads used.

Boys do not select a created t-shirt as they prefer graphic t-shirts or purchased plain t-shirts. In July we purchase t-shirts thru Back to School Clothing Drive (we have the best price) to complete our inventory so they can choose 2 shirts. See our website to make a matching wallet, you can pin this to the shirt.