

# The past, present and future of the Haberdashery

## The location of the important resource is not set yet in new GJHS school building

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The Tiger Boutique and Haberdashery, located in Room 114, has been a part of GJHS for the past four years, however, it wasn't always the way it is today.

In fall of 2018, Jodee Cronk's first Agents of Change advisory class had the idea to start a toiletries drive for a local teen homeless shelter, The House. This drive was run through a competition amongst advisories, which ended up being so successful that The House couldn't take everything that was collected.

Cronk had the idea to store the extra toiletries in her classroom's closet in case any students needed anything. Cronk's closet soon grew into the Tiger Boutique & Haberdashery, quickly including more than just toiletries, and becoming the school's very own thrift store.

After outgrowing its closet, the boutique was moved into an office in the 800 building across the street from the school, and in 2021 it was relocated to Classroom 114 for prime accessibility for both students and Mrs. Cronk, whose classroom is directly next to it. The donations have only grown from there, but still everything in the boutique is absolutely free.

"This community is fantastic. Whatever I say I need, it happens. That gives me great faith," said Cronk, administrator of the Tiger Boutique & Haberdashery.

But not everything has been sunshine and rainbows. Some students tend to leave the room a mess and don't



This is the wall of purses and bags in the Haberdashery, waiting for someone to claim them.

bother to clean up after themselves.

"I spend an inordinate part of my life reorganizing, refolding clothes, rehangng stuff, and picking up people's trash off the floor; and I know people treat businesses like that, too, like at the mall or wherever, and that's bad enough but the people working there get paid for it," said Cronk.

Over the years, the Tiger Boutique & Haberdashery has undergone many changes, but one of the biggest is yet to come. Installing the boutique into the new building has proven to be more difficult than anticipated.

"There originally was space built into the school for the school-based health clinic and then the school board voted that down so that space was offered to the boutique and, for me, it was a bittersweet thing. But with the health clinic back in the building, that space no longer exists," said Cronk. "People thought I would be upset when the board revoted and decided we could have the health clinic, but I'm absolutely not. We need both; the health clinic and the Tiger Boutique serve the same population of students and they should be offered all the resources from both of those entities."

But hope for the Tiger Boutique stands strong. "Everyone says that they are committed to making a space in the new building, we just don't yet know what that looks like," Cronk said. "They did offer space in what is currently the art-tech building which is going to be used for room for sports and they offered us space in the 800 building, but I think that would make my job a whole lot more difficult- I can't be teaching and running the boutique if it's that far away again."

While there is not a sure answer for the boutique next year, there is no doubt that the school is committed to keep it up and running.

But in the meantime, the Tiger Boutique & Haberdashery remains open in Room 114 during lunch, academy study time, and before school.



A poster found in Room 114.