

Christmas spirit & holiday sweaters go together

Hailey Hargraves
reporter

Ugly Christmas sweaters are a staple during the holiday season. Students and staff participate in this tradition of wearing ridiculous sweaters.

Ugly Christmas sweaters have a myriad of patterns, styles, and designs.

Sophomore Caragin Elsbury favors cat-related sweaters with cat printouts.

"My favorite Christmas sweater is one with a cat on it. It has Christmas tree lights that flash and a Santa hat," she said.

Junior Bekah Moon likes to wear ugly Christmas sweaters that are unique and fun.

"I like to wear them because they are fun. They are different and unique," she said. "My favorite sweater that I have is black and very fluffy with Christmas lights all over it."

Junior Juney Jones gets creative for the season by making her own sweaters.

"I like to make my own. My sweaters have the classic lace, fringe, tassel, and furry creatures on them," she said. "On the sweater that I made, I sewed on photos of myself as a joke."



Ava Brawley photos

The Student Council hosts an ugly Christmas sweater contest every year. Students and staff could have participated in the contest last week by wearing their sweaters. This year's theme was Grandma's Christmas closet.

"I wear them so I can win the ugly Christmas sweater contest," Jones said.

Some people lean towards funny sweaters.

"I like any sweater with llamas, also anything that is punny," Ms. Autumn Pasa, Spanish teacher, said. "I have 15. I have a few with llamas, I have a 'let's taco bout it' the holidays' sweater, but I really like Falalama sweaters."

Bundling up in an ugly Christmas sweater brings joy and festivity.

"The sweaters get me festive and make me feel happy," Ms. Pasa said. "A lot of them have llamas and I love llamas. They make other people happy, which makes me happy."

Not only do ugly Christmas sweaters put people into the holiday spirit, the sweaters can bring joy in the way of laughter.

"I wear ugly Christmas sweaters because they make me laugh. They get me into the Christmas spirit," Elsbury said. "I love the ones that are super tacky that light up. Those are the best. They get me into the spirit of Christmas."

Ornaments hold special memories

Alyssa James
reporter

With Christmas right around, decorating the tree can be special to many people.

"My favorite ornaments are probably the tear-dropped clear ones or the round glittery blue ones. I find them very pretty and interesting to see," freshman Aubrie Heir said.

Many families have different traditions, and Heir is delighted to share one of theirs.

"My family has an egg ornament that when you open it, plays some music and it has a mirror inside," Heir said. Basic ornaments are truly great choices.

"There are so many cute ornaments, but my favorite Christmas ornaments are the round sparkly golden ones because they are comforting and basic," sophomore Lucas Crouch said, "My family has many glass icicles with intricate designs that we keep in boxes so my cats don't knock them off,"

Homemade ornaments are cute and very festive.

"My favorite ornaments are usually homemade, and I love the white or snow blue ones," freshman Amara Hardcastle said. "Every year we

go to Dollar Tree and get small white clear ornaments and put small little snow globes in them."

Ornaments range from simple and basic ones to silly ones.

"Mine are a bit different from everyone else, but my personal favorite is the ones that are funny and don't sound right," senior Brianna Rhodes said. "Me and my family make paper ornaments and then hang them on our tree."

DIY ornaments are challenging, but they are fun to create. "I love making DIY ornaments, like the ones kids make with popsicle sticks. It's simple but fun since I'm artistic," junior Miley Green said. "Every year, we get out the ornaments with everyone's initials right next to each other on the tree."

Christmas is a great time to get together with family to get decorations.

"There are ornaments from Walmart that have fun designs. I always think they're cool to look at in the store, and it's honestly a fun trip with my family," sophomore Holden Melvin said. Melvin has a fascinating family tradition that you don't typically hear about.

"On my grandparents' Christmas tree, my brother one year thought it was a great idea to put his old spark plug from his car onto the tree, and we've done that every year since. It's a silly tradition but it's ours," he said.

Mr. Blaine Williams, English teacher, is excited to share some of his favorite festive items.

"Every year from my mom or Secret Santa, I would get Jaws ornaments for my small classroom Christmas tree," Mr. Williams said, "Since my wife's birthday is right before Christmas, I usually get her an ornament for the tree at home."

Freshman Amara Featheringill has a unique family tradition.

"My family does the White Elephant ornament exchange, which is our tradition, and it always gives everyone a different perspective, and emotion. Some are funny, interesting, sweet, and emotional. They are all unique," Featheringill said.



Ethan Lobb photos



Issac Appgar photo

PRACTICE SAFE WINTER DRIVING

- Prepare your vehicle; ensure maintenance is up to date.
- Remove dirt, ice, and snow from mirrors, lights, camera lenses, and sensors.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly.
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds.
- If your vehicle skids, turn into the direction of the skid to help regain traction.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

SAFETY BEGINS BETWEEN THE EARS

Teen drivers prep for snow

Rachel Spivey
reporter

Snow-covered roads and icy conditions do not wait for teen drivers to be ready.

Taking it slowly is the best strategy when facing snowy and icy roads.

"I just think driving in the snow is scary, and I try to be as cautious as I can. My first time driving in the winter my parents would always tell me to drive slow and stop sooner, but I did not think it would have been as bad as it was. I slid out into a busy intersection my first time driving in the snow. After that, I have been scared since," senior Chandler Sheppard said.

Advice from professional driving instructor Mr. Charlie Cummings at driving academy could be helpful.

"When you are driving in the winter everything you learn you need to emphasize in bad weather. In other words, you need to give yourself more following distance, and you need to be aware of others because other people might not even be going half the speed they need to be going. Just really never be in a hurry, especially in the winter time," he said.

Driving in the winter can be better for people with experience.

"Last winter I was definitely scared at first but I also had been driving for awhile I have been driving for the last two winters now. I was one of the first people out of my grade to get their licenses, but so far, I haven't had any major incidents with driving in the winter," senior Chris Lukins said.

Junior Hailey Sommers explained she is preparing for driving this winter.

"I am always going to make sure that I have an ice scrapper in my car and always leave time for myself to plan ahead for things. Even if I'm not in winter, I always have an emergency kit in my car just in case of anything happening," she said.

Junior Braden Chase, a new driver, talked about what he is most scared of.

"I am scared of getting in a really bad car accident or having my car spin out on a busy road. Black ice is also scary; it blends in with the road so it is hard to see," Chase said.

"You need to give yourself more following distance, and you need to be aware of others because other people might not even be going half the speed they need to be going."

Mr. Charlie Cummings