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Lockers let students express themselves

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Creators.com

Your child's locker is his or her personal space, stocked with school essentials, personal care items, and stuff for extracurricular activities.

No longer are lockers just cramped spaces to dump books. An important component of the student locker is "self-expression."

Decorating and personalizing this space gives kids a sense of ownership, creativity and control. But it also needs to be organized and functional. Below are some items that hopefully accomplish both.

Shelves

"Students need to have a locker shelf that helps divide their books from their notebooks and spiral pads," says Eileen Roth, author of "Organizing For Dummies." This helps students quickly access textbooks, binders and notebooks.

Locker ladders are also used to hold books and other school supplies.

MIRROR

No locker would be complete without a mirror.

Calendars.com has a magnetic mirror with special features such as a mini-clothesline with three mini-clothespins to hold pictures, notes and other reminders.

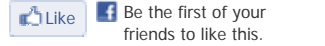
Card AND ACCESSORY organizer

"These days, students have a lot of cards that they are responsible for such as their school ID card, library card, lunch card, bus pass, insurance card, gift cards, frequent punch cards and more," says Stephanie Navarro, CEO of MaMa Change.

Accessories such as pens, pencils, loose change and other stuff fit nicely into small organizers.

Eco-friendly tote bags

Reusable totes in eco-friendly materials are chic and stylish and roll up into tiny sizes, so they don't monopolize a lot of locker space. They're also handy when a student needs to bring home wet shoes or project supplies.



Shelves, artwork and calendars personalize student lockers and keep them tidy, organized and functional as well.

CREATORS.COM

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SCENTED HANGERS

This may seem a bit over the top, and it is, but an enclosed space can get terribly musty and smelly fast. Hanging a scent strip or stick-on air freshener keeps a locker smelling fresh.

BASIC OFFICE SUPPLIES

To hand in papers and projects, students may need staplers, paper clips or sticky notes. Be sure a small pouch filled with that stuff is on hand.

BEAUTY SUPPLIES

A small zipped tote can hold lipstick and lip gloss, pressed powder, eyeliner, a brush and other cosmetic supplies. It also provides easy access and sure beats rummaging through a big purse or backpack.

DÉCOR

Students are decorating their lockers with vibrant color "wallpaper," magnetic signs and stick-ons. Some are even outfitted with battery-operated chandeliers to add extra light.