



PUMPKIN PATCHES with friends are always a great idea!
Photo by Tamara Hill ('26).



SWEET POTATO PIES It's always fun to add your own twist.
Photo by Tamara Hill ('26).

For the Love of Autumn

Elizabeth Anderson
Special Report Editor

Autumn is that time of year when the world seems to slow down just a little. The air becomes crisp, the trees trade their green leaves for red and orange, and there's a calm feeling that takes over. The crunch of leaves underfoot and the smell of the season before you see it, the mix of wood and smoke in the air seem to remind people to take a deep breath and relax. There's something peaceful about it, something that feels both new and familiar at the same time.

The trees are what most people notice first. Each one seems to dress up for the season. The leaves catch the sunlight and drift through the wind like small fires. When they fall, they gather on sidewalks and lawns, turning ordinary streets into carpets of color. Kids kick through them, dogs chase them, and even adults can't help but stop and stare for a moment.

There's a strong sense of nostalgia woven through autumn. It's a season made of memories. The smell of falling leaves can pull you straight back to childhood to walking home from school with a backpack full of books, your shoes crunching on the sidewalk. You might remember carving pumpkins, drawing faces that looked silly or spooky, and lighting candles inside them to watch them glow. Or maybe you remember jumping into

piles of leaves, laughing until your stomach hurts. Even as teenagers and adults, those memories linger. Autumn has a way of making the past feel close not in a sad way, but in a comforting one. It reminds us that we've been here before, that life moves in circles, and that even though things change, some feelings always come back.

Fashion, too, finds its rhythm in autumn. After months of shorts and flip-flops, people welcome the chance to layer up. It's sweater weather, the season for flannels, brown leather boots, and thick, cozy layers. People pull out their favorite clothes from the back of the closet, soft scarves, thickening cardigans, and well-loved coats and suddenly, getting dressed in the morning becomes fun again. Pinterest boards and social media feeds are flooding with inspiration from classic characters like Rory Gilmore and Bella Swan.

People begin posting and showing off their layered looks and "fall outfit ideas," standing in pumpkin patches, apple orchards, or under colorful trees. Coffee shops fill with people wearing cozy knits, holding warm drinks, talking softly as music plays in the background. There's something timeless about fall fashion. It's not just about what's new, it's about what feels good.