

PLATO'S CLOSET: One of several area resale stores specializing in teen and tween fashion.

The kids fashions are all right at thrift, secondhand stores

School's out for summer, but not forever. There are just a few short weeks till it's back in session, and everyone knows what that means: back-to-school shopping. But you don't have to break the bank this year. Area thrift and secondhand stores offer a wealth of inexpensive and trendy back-to-school styles. Read on for some of Shop Talk's favorites:



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the latest looks, rarely selling anything more than a season past. Their jeans selection is especially stellar. Brands include Forever 21, Levis, Limited, Abercrombie & Fitch, Baby Phat, Banana Republic, Bebe, Tommy Hilfiger and more. Sizes range from 0 to 16 (girls) and 28 to 40 (waist for guys). Average price for jeans is about \$12-\$15.

ONCE UPON A CHILD

Several area locations, ouac.com: Though this secondhand chain skews to the younger end of the newborn to size-14 spectrum, there's plenty for the school-age set. A recent visit discovered racks of adorable schoolgirls' clothes, from dresses and skirt sets to stylish jeans; great boys' play outfits and lots and lots of shoes. The baby/toddler section rules, though, with its amazing array of clothing, educational toys, cribs, strollers and high chairs. The stores are legendarily tough on accepting items for resale, so you'll almost never see anything stained.

PLATO'S CLOSET

Area locations, platoscloset.com: THE resale shop for fashion-conscious teens (or, as some of my friends have found, small adults). The trendy teen-centric store with several area branches always has

CLASSY KID'S CLOSET

37300 Detroit Road, Avon, 440-934-4011: A new entry to the local resale market, this fun and affordable store in Avon's chic French Creek District is a colorful, toy-filled spot with oodles of choices for the elementary-school set. Jeans, pants, sweats, dresses, skirts and sweaters are among the offerings — all clean, pressed and pleasantly presented. From newborn to children's size 14.

UNIQUE THRIFT

Area locations, unique thrift store.com: Cutting-edge young fashionistas will love the myriad very-low-priced racks at Unique, where the looks range from utilitarian to yes, unique. Whether you're looking for funky school looks or functional work clothes, Unique has it. And on Monday, it's half-off, too. Kids' items include dresses, skirts, suits (yes, for boys), jeans,

T-shirts, play clothes and a large selection of infant and toddler looks. Check online for coupons and special deals, too.

ENCORE

4125 Cleveland Ave. N.W., Canton, 330-492-7004, encoreresalefashions.com: It's worth the drive to this huge, high-end Canton resale shop. Browsers will find 4,200 square feet of everything from wedding gowns to jeans. The juniors section is especially impressive, with one whole room filled with jeans (including Diesel and 7 For All Mankind), shirts, sweaters, miniskirts, boots and shoes and much more.

Shopping list

American Apparel: And speaking of children . . . this hipster-basics store in Cleveland Heights finally has added the company's baby apparel and accessories to its inventory. Fashion- (and comfort-) conscious tots will find long- and short-sleeve onesies, track pants, hoodies, sweatshirts, jackets, karate and fleece pants, bibs, hats and more, all in AA's rainbow of cotton colors. Sizes range from newborn to 24 months. 1782 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, 216-320-1761.

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