University of Kentucky Master Clothing Volunteer and Wolfe County Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Ashley Hampton worked closely throughout the 2012-2013 school year with 4-H teen Council and FCCLA Member John Haddix to create a tuxedo for Prom made of Duck tape!

Though completely new to the field of sewing, John learned basic and advanced sewing skills through this project. With Ms. Hampton’s assistance John chose a pattern that fit his sense of style, learned how to take his measurements and adjust the pattern accordingly, and cut out the lining from basic muslin fabric. After applying the Duck tape to all the pattern pieces, John was assisted by Ms. Hampton and Fashion Construction student Kelly Hollon to learn how to read sewing pattern instructions and sewing through heavy fabrics.

Once John finished the construction he was an “experienced hand” with the sewing machine and took his learning to a new level with the art of embellishment. Ms. Hampton and many of her other Fashion Construction students showed John a variety of embellishing techniques including top stitching, rose and bow making, and proper use of the elements of design.

The project surprised students and teachers in a range of ways. The low cost of the project seemed a shock to many who found that John ended up spending significantly less on prom costs for a very personalized look. Other students were surprised that someone with no sewing experience could complete something so amazing. Ms. Hampton has shared that she is interested in helping any other student interested in ANY type of personal projects!