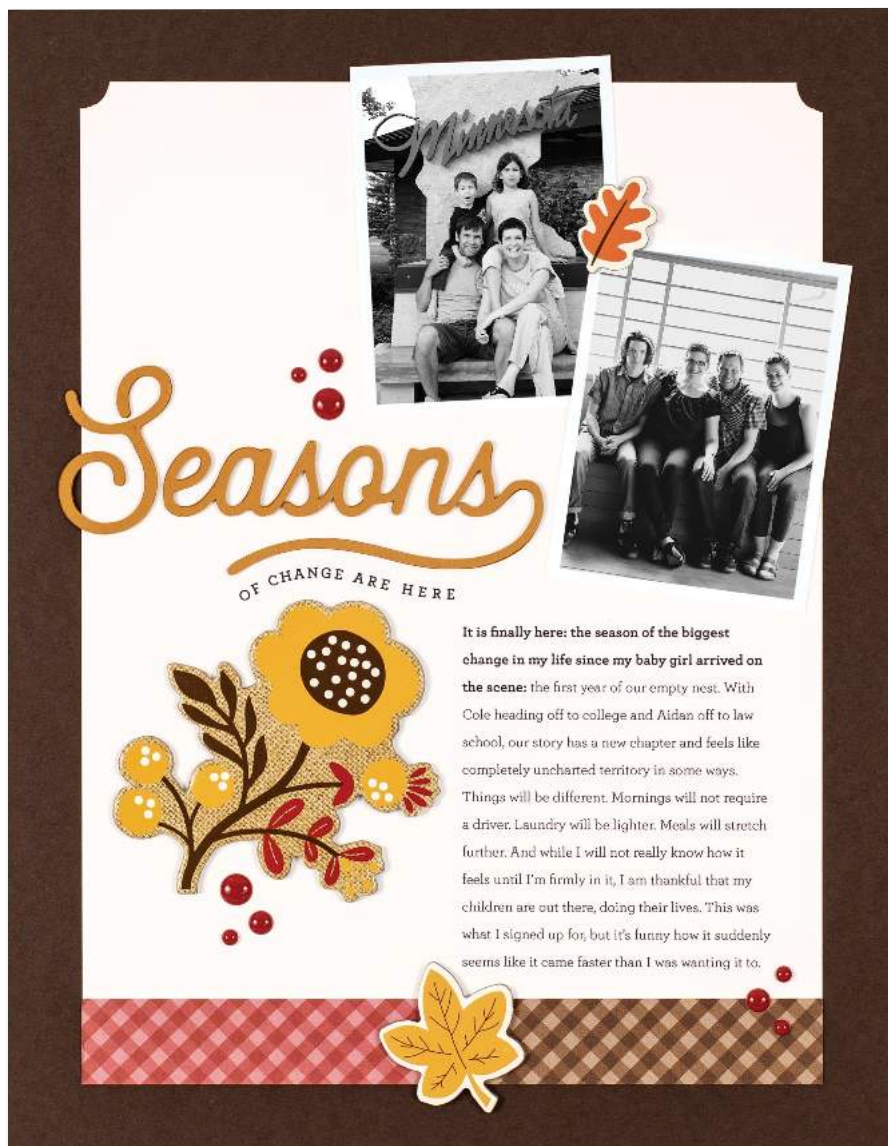


design your story

As times change, so do our stories—so let's tell them!

BY CATHY ZIELSKE

i It's hard to imagine the day when I no longer have to drive anyone to school and no one needs Mom to sign this or pick up that, but oddly enough, that day is here—my first year in the empty nest. I have been scrapbooking our story since my kids were little, but now it's time to tell new stories about fresh starts as the seasons of our lives are changing.



layout 1

HELLO EMPTY NEST

This fall marks the first time since 1996 where my husband and I don't live with extra people—namely our children. And while I'm not sure how this next phase of life will unfold, you can bet I will be documenting the story as we go.

STORY TIP: Share your perspective.

Often it's the memory keepers who tell everyone else's story but I am a fervent advocate of including your story, too. What are you going through in your life? What does your picture of life look like right now? The empty nest is truly a story only I can tell.

DESIGN TIP: Repeat your

embellishments in threes. Three chipboard stickers and three groupings of enamel dots create visual connections in this simple design. Looks for elements to repeat to create a visual triangle (or two!) on your layout.

seasons of change

supplies CARDSTOCK: Gina K. Designs, Neenah; PATTERNED PAPER, CHIPBOARD STICKERS, ENAMEL DOTS: Echo Park Paper; PUNCH: We R Memory Keepers; ELECTRONIC DIE CUT MACHINE: Silhouette America; FONT: Archer; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L, Therm O Web



Download Cathy's seasons cut file to use on your own scrapbook layout or card design. Find it on our website here: scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-content

Seasons

layout 2

MORE FRESH STARTS

My daughter graduated from college last May and is embarking on her next adventure: law school. While I'm purely an observer (and cheerleader!) on her journey, I still include the story in my scrapbook albums.

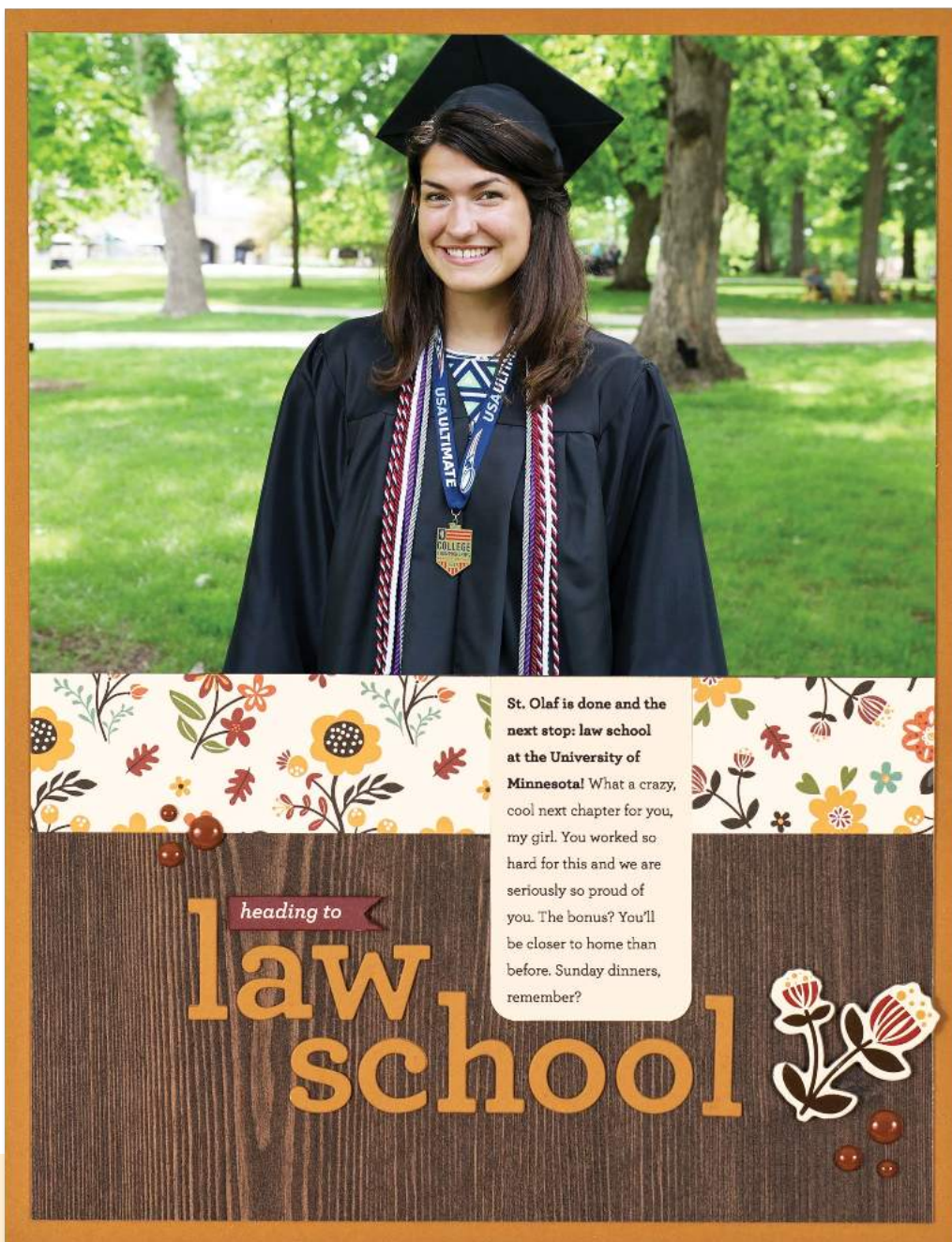
PHOTO TIP: Use an older photo to tell a current story.

I don't have a photo of my daughter starting law school, so I used a shot of her college graduation instead. Don't get hung up on having the perfect photo for your story.

DESIGN TIP: Go big with a photo. If you have a shot you love, enlarge it! I love the size contrast of a large photo, paired with a short journal block and title.

law school

supplies CARDSTOCK: Gina K. Designs; PATTERNED PAPER: Echo Park Paper, Studio Calico; CHIPBOARD STICKERS, ENAMEL DOTS: Echo Park Paper; DIES: CZ Design for Simon Says Stamp; FONT: Archer; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L, Therm O Web



TECHNIQUE TIP Stacked die cuts

Have you tried stacking your die cuts for titles? This is my favourite technique to add a subtle dimension to a layout or card project. Simply cut multiples of any letter or title element and glue two or more together. I usually glue three or four for the look of a custom chipboard title.



1 Cut multiple letters from cardstock to match your project.



2 Stack and adhere using a strong liquid adhesive.

For more awesome die cutting tips and techniques, don't miss *Creative Cards* on page 51.