



Family Partnership Charter School Sponsors 'Steps to Your Future'

with Mari Jo Parks, M.Ed., Career & College Coach



WHAT DO YOU NEED?

As I write this week's Steps to Your Future, I wonder what you need to hear? I have tried a number of ideas but none of them seemed quite right. So I thought it might be good to take a moment to reflect.

I want you to realize you have been part of history. You have been pioneers and test lab cases. You have gone through so many things and now is the time to record it. This will be valuable information for the rest of your life and especially valuable for your college applications.

Fall Semester 2020 was truly a tough semester. Here are some things you need to give yourself credit for, you need to look at your accomplishments.

You had to learn so many new things. Here are questions you need to answer...

1. What did you learn? What did you really learn? Not just math and science but ways of learning, knowledge that became more important, endurance, patience...
2. Did you learn how to use the computer in a completely different way? How did Zoom and other new modes of teaching expand your horizons? What kind of impact will that have on a future job?
3. Did you learn to communicate with your teacher in a completely different way? Were you using Google Docs, emails and text messages to stay in touch?
4. What kind of schedule did you have to create for yourself? Did you have to set new deadlines for yourself? How did you accomplish that? What tools did you use to succeed?
5. You had to adjust so many times and in so many ways. What were the adjustments that you had to make?
6. How did you deal with your family through all of this?
7. What creative things did you do? How did you reach out to others?
8. What was the toughest part of this past semester?
9. What life lessons have you gained through the pandemic?

So the questions to ask yourself are, Where does this lead me? How am I going to take this experience and have it make me stronger? What have I learned is my superpower?

Planning your future is very much like this past semester. There will be obstacles in your way. You will start down one path only to need to change direction. You will be tested and retested. But because of the past months of the pandemic you have gain skills that will serve you well in your future.

In the beginning of this newsletter I asked What Do You Need? So my advice to you now is you need to:

- Celebrate that you have made it this far.
- Keep planning for the future.
- Be grateful and thank those who have helped you.
- Take a deep breath and smile.

So, as the semester comes to a close take a few days to relax. Then it is time to once again plan your future, apply for colleges, get your essays started and think about the next phase of your life.

Let me know if there is anything I can do to help. Contact me at future.incl@gmail.com. I am available all Christmas vacation.

Have a great week, Mari Jo