



Family Partnership Charter School Sponsors
'Steps to Your Future'
with Mari Jo Parks, M.Ed., Career & College Coach



Dear Parent and Students, Congratulations on making it through an amazing year! You have been warriors and dragon slayers. As I write my last newsletter of the year, I want to share some thoughts that might help as you move forward. It has been an honor sharing my knowledge and thoughts with you.

The Opportunities Ahead and Thoughts To Know

As your school year comes to a close know that this is both the END and just the BEGINNING.
This past year has been different from anything we could have prepared for or wanted for you.
But remember it has had wonderful moments and some truly horrible moments.
But YOU made it through.

This past year the **World Has Changed**, Education Has Changed, YOU Have Changed.
Embrace the feelings you have had, the moments of sadness, happiness, confusion, anger, laughter.
Take time to reflect on them, understand them, accept them, let them be a part of you forever.
Take the lessons you have learned and let them help guide you through the rest of your life.

We have seen how individuals have taken these troubling times and turned them into opportunities.
We have seen people be innovative and creative, struggle and succeed, fight and win, fight and lose.
There are those who sacrificed and those who received the greatest blessings.
We have seen the world at its lowest and at it best. **We have found new heroes.**

The world is an amazing place, there are **so many ways to explore it**.
Wander on the internet, wander your state, wander on the paths of distant lands.
Explore your own neighborhood, we have learned the importance of our community.
Meet your neighbors, hear their stories, they are rich and complicated and oh so wonderful.

Confusion and uncertainty will be with you always.
Questioning who you are or what your decisions are is a good thing.
There will be times when you will fail, but do not think of it as a failure.
Think about the opportunities that await you. **I promise you there will be new opportunities.**

You are going to see things I cannot imagine.
You are going to learn things that have not even been discovered yet.
You are going to face challenges, anger, sadness, happiness, be ecstatic and overwhelmed.
But out of each of these situations you will have new opportunities.

Do not let anyone limit you.
Do not let others define you or make you someone you do not want to be.
You have experienced firsthand that YOU have all the power to create your future.
Make the future what you really want it to be.

Take this year's experiences and make them part of your opportunities.

Through the year I have written about educational options, high school and college preparation, financial aid, time management, organization, and much more. If you would like a copy of any of this year's 'Steps to the Future', feel free to contact me at future.inc1@gmail.com or text at (907) 354-5405.

Have a great summer. Here's to your FUTURE, Mari Jo Parks, *Career & College Coach*