



Family Partnership Charter School Sponsors 'Steps to Your Future'

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



Dear Students and Parents,

As this pandemic continues, I want to give you some helpful advice to keep you going and to help you see that your future is right around the corner. Doing things now to keep your morale up and help you through this strange time can make you stronger for the challenges you face. Here are some of my thoughts.

The Waiting Game is the Hardest

Waiting is without a doubt one of the hardest things to do. You have been planning and working so hard to get to where you want to be, only to have to WAIT. What are the best things you can do while you are in this suspended mode?

As you prepare for your future you need to remember that you will forever talk about this time of quarantine and pandemic. Keep a journal, a video or photograph or in writing about your experience. Today you will think it does not mean much, but I promise you in 10, 20 even 50 years from now you will be so glad you have your record.

Here are some good things you can be doing now to get ready for the next step in your life.

First, realize that time is your superpower right now. You have time to reflect, to energize, to read, to study, and even to do nothing. Create a list that answers the statement, 'I will feel better when.' There is power in realizing what you need to do to feel better.

Second, observe how our country and the world are dealing with this crisis. There is so much creativity and innovation happening right now to solve major problems the world is facing. Keep a list of some of them for future examples of life during trying times. You can use this for essays and inspiration.

Third, do something good for others. You do not need to have money to help others. You could be calling a child and reading a book to them using FaceTime. Reach out to a senior citizen and ask them to tell you about their high school days or their journey in life. You can sew masks, you can make treats, you can write letters. With spring being here you can go help clean your neighbor's yard while keeping your distance. No act of kindness is too small.

Fourth, learn some important survival skills. Learning to cook and plan meals will be an asset the rest of your life. Money management and budgeting are valuable skills to learn. Consumer awareness and learning about fraud can save you lots of money in the future. Learn something fun like playing the spoons (yes that is a real thing!), to singing, to drawing, the list is endless.

Fifth, appreciate the people in your life. Hug your parents and the people you are living with. Realize how lucky you are that you can still do that because there are many people who are alone. E-mail teachers that made a difference for you. Let them know how they made a difference. It will mean more to them than you can imagine.

One does not know when the Waiting Game will be over, but in the meantime, you have accomplished a lot, you deserve to know how amazing you are. So celebrate your successes. Here are 3 cheers for you...Hip, hip hooray, Hip, Hip Hooray, HIP, HIP, HOORAY!!!

Feel free to contact me at future.incl@gmail.com. I want to hear your stories. How are you surviving this PANDEMIC???

Have a great week! Mari Jo Parks