



Family Partnership Charter School Sponsors 'Steps to Your Future'

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



Happy New Year!!! January is such an exciting and overwhelming time for Seniors and Juniors. As a Career and College Coach I am available to help you through this process. With just a few hours of working with me you will feel in more control and know what to do. Here are some tips to help.

Dear Seniors and Juniors,

Deciding on what you will do after high school may be weighing on you right now. There are so many options, how do you know what is best for you? And please remember you are not too late. There are plenty of possibilities and opportunities.

College Selection

Selection and Application

1. If you are not sure where you want to go I like the website College Board www.collegeboard.com/ for its search engine under the Big Future tab.
2. I like for students to look at schools where they have a connection. It is helpful to have a place to go when you want to get away from college or need a good homemade meal.
3. Go to the Common App and streamline your application process.

FAFSA

1. Now is the time to complete the FAFSA so you can share it with the colleges.

Scholarships

1. Scholarships are opening up so you will want to be prepared to apply for them.
2. You will need 3 Letters of Recommendation...ask your teachers, coaches, employers, find people who know you well and will write a letter.
3. Essays – I have prompts that you can be working on now to use for many of the scholarships.
4. Transcript – Get a copy of your transcript and check to see that it is accurate. At the end of January, you will want to request official transcripts to be able to send with your scholarship applications.

Apprentice Programs

Apprentice Programs offer training while you work. They select a limited number of apprentices to fill future jobs in Alaska.

1. Go to AATCA (Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association) <http://aatca.org/training-programs/>. They coordinate with more than 16 different union construction crafts. The JATC's (Joint Administered Training Committee), engage in providing quality training for the majority of construction apprentices in Alaska. Additionally, they offer enhancement classes for journeyman craftsmen and Construction Academy courses for men and women to prepare them for applying to an apprenticeship or a career in the trades.
2. Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development website gives excellent information about Apprenticeships, Alaska Works Construction Academies and much more. <https://jobs.alaska.gov/apprentice/job-seekers/index.html>

Vocational, Trade in Business Schools in Alaska

There are many training programs that can be six months to two years. Examples include, HAZMAT training, CDL license, Firefighting, Certified Nurse's Assistants, Personal Care Assistance, Mechanics, Cosmetology and much more. Finding the right training and program for you can be found through a Google search, AKCIS website or the Employment Center.

AVTEC – Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward, is a great example of a certified training school that offers specific programs that will lead to careers in Alaska.

Community Colleges also offer specialized programs. Go to Community & Technical College – University of Alaska: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/community-and-technical-college/> Click on campuses for more information about the programs in Anchorage and around the state.

Please feel free to email me at future.inc1@gmail.com for more information. I can help you through the maze of selecting what is right for you.

Mari Jo Parks