



Family Partnership Charter School Presents -

‘Steps to Your Future’

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



*From the Desk of Mari Jo Parks –
September, 2020*

Dear Seniors and Parents,
Let's talk about planning your future in the time of COVID...

As a Career and College Coach I have been talking with seniors and parents about how to plan for college next year. There are no perfect answers but here are a few things to consider so you can find what is right for you. More articles to address many of these concerns will be coming soon!

How flexible are you?

- The one thing we know about the future is that it is uncertain. You can make lots of definite plans only to have to them cancelled or changed. - Do you need guarantees on how you will spend next year? Then the wise decision is to stay close to home.
- If you are flexible and know that things might change, then you should apply to the schools of your choice. BUT (and this is a big BUT), you will want to do your research to make sure you understand the school's COVID policies, which will change many times as they deal with new situations.

(A future article on this subject is coming.)

What were your original plans?

Were you dreaming of going to a college out of state, or an Ivy League school or a college overseas? How exciting to plan on a great adventure!

Ask yourself these questions –

1. Why did you choose that college?
2. Do you have family ties there?
3. Are your friends planning on going there?
4. Are you selecting that college because of the education it has to offer you?

Knowing why you want to attend a particular college can help you decide if it is still the right direction for you. *(A future article on this subject is coming.)*

Did you want to go out of state?

Going to a college out of state offers many unique opportunities, but it also includes extra expenses.

- Higher tuition (unless you get a college scholarship)
- Travel expenses, moving expenses, and other hidden costs.
- Consider the cost if the school goes on lock down or closes.

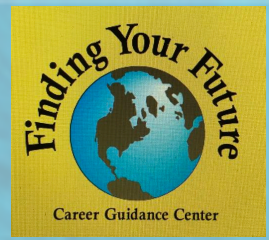
Will it be worth the extra money?



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Do you have a support network to rely on if you have to leave your college campus?

- When I talk with students and parents about going far away from home, I always ask about the type of support network the student will have in that part of the country. Having people you can visit on week-ends can make a major difference in adapting to a new environment. This becomes a more important consideration when you realize that colleges may need to shut down on a moment's notice.

What is your financial situation?

College is one of the most expensive items you will ever have to pay for. Knowing your family's financial situation needs to be a major factor in your decision of where to go to college. If your family has been hit hard by the COVID virus, that will impact what you can afford. There is more financial aid at this time, but it is uncertain what will be available a year from now. This is one of the areas that is very complicated.

(I will be dedicating many articles on this topic in the future.)

What are the medical issues you need to consider for yourself or your family?

Finally, I want you to consider medical issues for you and your family. I always recommend to students and their families to put together a medical history in case medical problems arise. It is very important to know about your family medical situation so you can stay safe and keep your loved ones from harm. Consider medical issues when you plan for the next step in your future. We all hope that in a year we will be back to a more normal world lifestyle. But medical issues as one of the factors you use when deciding on where to attend college next fall.

Words of Wisdom from Colin Parker

No rush to decide on a major...

So many classes you can take for fun your freshman year that can make a difference.

General Education classes are more available online and are better prepared.

YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME!!!!

Once you get a BA it opens up a lot of paths. You are not stuck with what you majored in as a freshman.