

## Stepping into Your Future

The SHS class of 2021 class motto is, “For there are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.” These words were written in a letter from C.S. Lewis to his friend, poet, Mary Willis Shelburne in 1963. She was twice widowed and was worried about facing poverty and ill-health. Ironically, it was Lewis who passed away just five months later and Shelburne lived another twelve years. C.S. Lewis said this to her as a Christian friend who saw “death as the friend and deliverer.” The 2021 graduates have chosen these words as encouragement as they face a new phase in their lives. How, then, does a 2021 graduate make certain they face far better things ahead? Here is some advice from various sources:

**1. Look toward the future with courage.**

The people around you either strengthen your heart or weaken your knees. Find courage by nurturing the connection with those who stay true, even when the boat begins filling with water. Remember those who pushed you and then become one who pushes others. Find courage knowing that others made a difference in you.

**2. Look toward the future with gratitude, not anxiety.**

Gratitude anticipates opportunity. Anxiety anticipates harm. Gratitude says, “I’m thankful to contribute.” Anxiety dwells on uncertainty and says, I choose to not become involved.” Gratitude views uncertainty as opportunity to rise and make a difference. Nothing drains power from anxiety like *expressions* of gratitude. Gratitude toward the past enables learning. Gratitude toward the future opens your eyes to opportunity.

**3. Examine the lessons you’ve learned.**

Realize, and remember, that you cannot control things that can’t be controlled. Understand that resentment is only refusing to see advantage in disadvantage. Say no to negativity. Dwell on the positive outcome by surrounding yourself with positive and giving people.

**4. Know what stage you of life you are in.**

Each stage is beautiful. Each stage builds on what’s come before, and is a prelude to what’s coming next. There’s hope for each stage. Celebrate your progress, help those who are behind you, learn from those who are ahead of us, and take the next step. As long as you’re alive, God invites you to grow and to take the next step.

**5. Always go beyond what is required.**

Always go the extra mile—in your career, in your business, in your relationships, in your service, in loving others, and in everything you do. “Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Pursue excellence in all your undertakings. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.” — Matthew 5:40-42

**The Greater Sabetha Community Foundation wishes the 2021 graduates the very best! We are proud of all you have accomplished! We want to see you strike out on your own and experience life beyond Sabetha. Then, we hope that at some time you return and make your hometown your permanent hometown. By then, more strides will be taken by those who remain here to help make this place, your hometown, a great place to live, work and raise a family.**