

Class of 2020: Cherish - Believe - Grow

The SHS class of 2020 chose for their class motto, "Cherish the memories- Believe in the future- Grow from the hardships- Always be a Bluejay at heart."

Cherish the memories of the past years of school because new memories will replace many of the past memories. I graduated in 1973 and still have memories of my days with my class. We get together every five years, but we really don't talk of the past. We focus on today, laughing and forgetting each individual's past. We have moved on and we accept each other for what we are today; what we have become.

It is important to believe in the future. The future is uncertain. But believing that there is good to come is important to seeing the positive and being a light in the world.

Growing from hardships. As a senior in high school, I sure didn't want anyone to tell me that I would grow from the hard times much more than I would grow from the easy times, but it is "oh so true." Forty-seven years after my graduation I am happy to say the valleys have led me to mountains and the hardships have led to success. It might take many of the 2020 graduates that long to get there or it might not take any time at all. There just are no guarantees in life. But there will be hardships so be prepared to handle them correctly.

Perusing some articles, I found a few good suggestions to put the 2020 motto into action.

1. Cherish friends and family. I cherish my children and grandchildren. I would do anything for them. My mom is 92 years old. Her time on earth is nearly finished. I cherish time spent with her.

2. Tell the people in your life how you feel about them. If it doesn't come natural to you, all the more reason to begin doing it. My psychology class was given the "I love you" assignment. For some it was no big deal, but for others it was the hardest assignment ever. Other phrases to say are, "I'm happy to see you. I care about you. You mean so much to me. I think of you often." Everyone has three things in common: They need to receive love, give love and know that they matter. Tell people they matter! Yes, cherish your family!

3. Become grateful. If you have friends and family, you are blessed. Share your gratitude with them. Surprise them with a card in the mail. In the world of texting, cell phones and email receiving a card is a rare treat.

4. Develop a positive attitude. Surround yourself with people who pull you up and challenge you to be better. Look for the good in the world and in others. Become a believer and your life will become better!

5. Set and Accomplish Goals. It's a good idea to challenge yourself on a weekly basis to stay optimistic about your future. Tackle difficult things and be a believer in what you can accomplish. Writing a list of things to do and cross off the completed tasks can be, what today's young people say is "very satisfying."

7. Understand that the strength we possess as humans is limited. This one came from my devotion this week. The author wrote "No matter how many self-help ideas we implement or positive statements we proclaim; our strength will only take us so far. That may discourage some, but hopefully, the truth we read from God's Word will deposit hope in us instead."

6. Realize that troubles can expose weaknesses that prompt us to rely on others. For some you might rely more on your friends or your family. The times of hardships have been my time of great spiritual growth. Also in my devotional I read “We’re all either in a challenging season or will be in one soon. Life can either bring it gently, or it can hit like an unexpected tsunami. But regardless of how we enter into hard times, we’ll have to learn how to walk through them.”

8. Always be a Bluejay at heart. You will come home and be aware, it will never be the same. Sabetha, like any town or city, will change. There will be some good changes and there might be some you find you don’t like at all. The Greater Sabetha Community Foundation is dedicated to helping make positive changes in our community. We facilitate what the people want to do by providing a means to raise funds to get it done. So, when you come back, I challenge you to look for the positives and look over the negatives. Yes, the downtown stores might change or the house you grew up in might have new owners that made changes you don’t like. Those are just surface changes. They don’t matter. You have the memories of the times you spent here, and we hope you will make new memories as you come home and enjoy your hometown.

