



Celebrate!

So long 2020, Hello 2021! Let's celebrate our accomplishments amid our current challenges as we look forward to a brighter year. The current pandemic has dimmed the opportunities to celebrate as we like; however, it is important to recognize and celebrate small victories, both personal and professional, as we look forward to the future with hope. The work of NAEA and its membership is about providing hope for a brighter future for our students with opportunities through education. It's also about leading and mentoring those we serve. It's time to celebrate!

Celebrate and recognize accomplishments, such as resilience and perseverance, that develop character in ourselves and in our students. Celebrate opportunities for quiet and thoughtful reflection. Celebrate and acknowledge new or improved technology skills. Create and celebrate happy moments. Shawn Achor, author of *The Happiness Advantage*, suggests we can create more happiness in our lives by developing happiness habits. He submits the most powerful happiness habit is to start each day by writing a two-minute positive e-mail or text, praising or thanking one person that you know. He advises replicating this activity for a different person for 21 days and it will become a personal happiness habit! This will not only improve your personal happiness, but you will share your optimism to those you serve. Let's celebrate new challenges and growth opportunities in 2021 to spread happiness.

Celebrate with NAEA this year as we recognize and support the work of alternative and non-traditional educators. Join us in unifying the voice of advocacy for our students as we move forward to promote equity in education. Celebrate excellence with the NAEA exemplary practices showcase school tours. It's not too late to register for the showcase school tours! And finally, we hope to celebrate again in person at the NAEA annual conference in St. Louis, MI in October 2021.

Best wishes for a 2021 that brings happiness to each of you.

Kathleen Chronister
NAEA President
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