



439 INFORMER

*Produced for the Parents and Patrons of
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Our Hopes for 2021....

The High School Journalism class has done something a little different for this month's publication. Instead of the usual news stories about sports, teachers, student life, and upcoming events, each student has instead written a personal piece. The only guidance for their writing was that it must fit the title, "My Hopes for 2021." As you will see from their writing, the hopes of our young people reflect worry about the world and all that is going on, but also hope for the positive things to come in the New Year. Each writer also submitted an original photograph to accompany his or her piece. We hope you enjoy this edition of the *439 Informer*, and find hope in the hopes of the young people of the Sedgwick Community.

My Hopes for 2021, by Sara Harjo, English and Journalism Teacher

As an English teacher, you might think that I would have a better way of describing 2020. Yet no words that I can conjure up more accurately depict what 2020 was for me and my family and my students than these: 2020 sucked. I know it is not an eloquent expression, yet it perfectly describes the disappointments and sacrifices that I will always associate with the year 2020. So many of us connect the dawning of a new year with a fresh start. This year, that fresh start is sorely needed.

I have many hopes for 2021. Hopes for my children, for my family, for my students, and for myself. But I can boil all of these hopes down into a single word: normalcy. My hope for 2021 is that we return to the normal that we all took for granted prior to 2020. My hope for 2021 is that I will again be able to take my children on vacation and to visit grandparents, like normal. My hope is that my students will all safely be in a single classroom together, laughing and learning, like usual. My hope is that I will once again sit on a crowded set of bleachers at a baseball game and cheer my children and their teammates on, like I have done hundreds of times before when things were normal. On New Year's Day, we took our kids sledding. We raced down the hill, faceplanted in the snow, and for a brief moment, we forgot the absence of normalcy in our daily lives. My hope is that we find this sense of normalcy, and never take it for granted again.



My Hopes for 2021 by Alyse McGaugh, junior

After the year we all have just had I think everyone has high hopes for the coming year. My hopes for 2021 are complicated, due to COVID I have not been able to see some of my family members, so I hope I get to see them soon. The thing I miss the most about my family is getting to spend time with them. I also hope in the coming year that COVID dies down a bit and things can start opening back up and going back to normal. Another thing that I am extremely hopeful for in the upcoming year is being able to dance during basketball season in front of an actual crowd. I am really excited for this because the team works so hard at so many practices to perfect these dances.



I have some personal goals for 2021 as well. I am extremely excited for the timed event series that my arena will be putting on through the summer. It will have events including barrel racing, team roping, breakaway, poles, and so much more! Another reason I am so excited for this is because it will be the first time I will be competing on my new horse. Competing next year is really important and exciting for me because I have put so much time and effort into training and getting this horse back into shape and back into good health, so being able to race on him and to see him doing what he loves means the world to me. All in all I hope 2021 brings nothing but great and amazing things to everyone.

My Hopes for 2021 by Paige Brown, senior

2020 will definitely be a year for the books, but everyone is hopeful for change in the New Year. Covid-19 has really taken a toll on life for most people, especially it being my senior year. I am hopeful that with the New Year we will be able to go to games and cheer on our classmates. Have dances that were taken away from us last year including prom and winter formal. I am hopeful that I will be able to talk to my classmates without being told to stay away from one another. The Senior class had their Junior prom taken away along with Junior year spring sports. So, I hope this year we are fortunate enough to have prom and spring sports. I am hopeful that the New Year will bring hope to the end of our high school years and make it one to remember.

I hope that families come together during Christmas to enjoy one another and celebrate the holidays. On Thanksgiving, many families did not all come together to celebrate the holiday. I hope that families come together to see each other for Christmas and the New Year. But, my biggest hope for the New Year is that I get to graduate next year and walk across the stage with my friends. I will miss my friends from Sedgwick, but we have become closer than ever these past two years. Sedgwick High has given us memories that will last a lifetime and I hope to make more this last semester of high school.



My Hopes for 2021 by Josephine Cochran, sophomore

2020 in a nutshell, was terrifying. With the unknowingness of it all, it's almost as though we are helpless. We are looking for something or someone that isn't there. Someone to come save us from this current situation when it's really up to us to save ourselves despite being completely unprepared. There needs to be a light at the end of the tunnel or something to help us get through the blankness, but all we really have is hope. Hope that we can change. Hope of togetherness and holding loved ones in our arms once again. Hope that we will feel something other than boredom and sorrow. Hope and longing for adventure, something out of the usual to change everyday life. But in the end everyday life can be quite more than expected when realization kicks in that it's up to you to live it to the fullest.

Pure happiness can be triggered by the weirdest and most miniscule things. Such as cooking something new, even when it turns out inedible and monstrous, you're still proud of your homemade masterpiece. The reassuring fact that family is just one facetime away from a virtual yet lovely holiday. Or the happy cry of an old dog's name that makes him drop everything just to say hi. Maybe the specific feeling when numb and flavorless are overthrown by the warmth of a stranger's compliment that gives you confidence and brightens your day. There are so many things that make people happy and even though they are limited right now, doesn't mean things won't get better.

Who knows how long it will take to leave 2020 behind. All the wounds will be hard to mask, only with time they will heal. Dreaming of 2021 being different seems far fetched since we don't know if anything will change. On the other hand things will change, things will never stop changing. All we can do is help things change to become the future we want it to be. 2021 as a social oasis doesn't have to be a dream, we can make it a reality.

**My Hopes for 2021** by Olivia Grattan, senior

The year of 2020 has been something very unexpected for a lot of us. We have all had to face many obstacles and had to overcome many different things. We have faced a lot of struggles, but through it all we have held our heads high and tried to keep our hopes up. We have all tried our best to be okay with the changes. We have had to change a lot about our lives and the things we do, but we have adjusted and made the best out of everything that has happened. We are still able to go to school even though it is not the same as it was before. We are able to still do sporting events. Although little to nothing is the same as it was it does not mean that this year has been horrible. Even though I wish that this year had gone differently, I am still grateful for everything that this year has

brought. That does not mean that I am ungrateful for all of the experiences I have gotten this year. However, I do hope that next year is different.

When it comes to my hopes I have quite a few. Some are small simple things, but some things



are very big and important to me. I hope that 2021 will be very different from 2020. I want to be able to not have to wear a mask or worry about what changes. I want to be able to finish out my senior year normally. I hope that I will be able to attend my senior prom and to be able to walk across the stage at my graduation with all of my family able to be there. I want to start college and to be able to go to my first day and not have to worry about having to do online school or not being able to get all of the experiences that I have looked forward to. My biggest hope however is that we all get what we want out of the 2021 and make the best out of everything that life throws at us. Even if 2021 is like 2020 we will all push through and try to embrace everything that we are given.

My Hopes for 2021 by Winter Hersh, senior

As Coldplay said "Nobody said it was easy, no one ever said it would be so hard I'm going back to the start." No one would have predicted a pandemic, but it happened and still is. I feel as though we needed this to remember what really matters in life and not to take the little things for granted. Such as families becoming closer and sweatpants and t-shirts became acceptable fashion choices all day every day. We all have noticed that family and friends are what keeps us strong. Since the pandemic board games are officially cool again. Playing board games with your family is a great way to spend some quality time together. My hope is that families will be even stronger next year and spend more time together. For next year we will all know how to cook fantastic meals because of cooking while in quarantine.



Not only have we gotten closer with our loved ones but we have discovered some



hidden talents or hobbies. One major plus that has happened this year that should continue is people fostering puppies. Everyone loves dogs and having a little friend when at home. Not everyone loves to read but this year more and more people are reading. Reading is good when people want an escape from the real world. We all learned homeschooling is hard and recognized teachers for the heroes that they are. My hope next year is that we continue fostering puppies, reading, and appreciating others. Even though this year has been tough there have

been many good things to come out of it. We all have come together and got through this year together.

My Hopes For 2021 by Madison Matson, senior

The past year has made a huge impact on Sedgwick students and staff. All anyone can do is hope. Hope that everyone is safe and that world is going to be alright. As a senior this year under these circumstances my hopes for 2021 is that it is just as memorable as any other year. I do not want to look back in a few years and think of this time as when everything was getting cancelled and closed. I have to look at the good things I have done and accomplished. 2021 I want to be able to accomplish a lot of things. One being focusing more on my grades. It has been a lot harder than I thought it would to stay on track. Another thing I want to focus on the most is staying happy. I personally have been struggling with looking at the brighter side of things and not the negatives.

I know that this is no one's fault and no one meant for our lives to be how it is right now. I hope that USD439 keeps everything under control. I do not get to go to school every day and see my friends. I am ok with that because I know it is what's best for everyone right now. I hope that in 2021 Sedgwick finds a way to keep the school clean and everyone safe even better than what it is right now. I want to be able to spend my last few months of high school actually in the school making memories with my classmates before everyone leaves. Finally, my biggest hope for 2021 is that my friends, family, and peers all stay safe and do what is the best for them individually.



Hopes For 2021 by Hilario Moran, sophomore

Did you know there is a song about hope by Gabby Barrett and it is called "I Hope"? based on that is my hope for 2021 is that I hope that Covid will be gone and everything can go back to normal like it was in 2019. The reason this hope is important to me is because I would like to be able to hang out with my friends and not worry about being six feet apart from each other. Another one of my hopes is about my birthday which is February 27. The reason this is important to me is I want to turn 18 so I can see my biological family. I would like to be able to get on the honor roll because I have never been on the honor roll since I started school. The reason I want this is that I would like to just let myself know that I finally made it and that my sister isn't the only one that can do it.



I would also like to get my Xbox one and get to level 150 at least on my game Fortnite. The reason I would like it to happen is because it would give me self-satisfaction and that I can also know that I'm decent at the game. Another hope of mine is that I would get to go do track and try to win at least once. The reason is because I like to race and, my mom says that I'm fast. My last hope is that I can at least make people happy and try to make their day good so they can be happy. My reasoning for this is because I like to stay positive and try to make people have a smile on their face.

My Hopes for 2021, by Lauryn Wilkinson, senior

2020 was difficult for us all. It was definitely something we haven't been through before. It was not only difficult for every individual, but for the country and the entire world. I never thought 2020 was going to go the way it did. In some ways it changed who I am as a person. For my 2021 I have many hopes for 2021.

First of all I hope for the country to unite. There is an abundant amount of hate in the world. We shouldn't be dividing, we should use our differences to unite us. I also hope to graduate. Since I was little, one of my biggest goals is to walk across that stage, take the tassel and move it to the left. I'm also scared about it. I do not yet know what I want to do after high school. I have two options, both open so many more doors for life. Choosing which door to open is the biggest challenge right now. Another one of my hopes for 2021 is my youth group trip to Chicago. We were supposed to go in July of 2020, but we had to move it to July 2021. I am excited for this trip. I hope everything goes somewhat smoothly, and that we don't have to cancel it again. I hope for the year to be a good year. I hope to grow more as a person, especially into the person God wants me to be. I hope to grow closer to my family and friends, and make the bond I already have with them even stronger. I wish to make everyone around me proud of me. I want 2021 to be the year that I say this is it, we're gonna do it. The year that I push hardest to reach my goals.



2021 is going to be hard. I will be saying goodbye to what I have been used to for the past almost 18 years. I will also be moving onto bigger and better things. I think my biggest hope of them all is for me to succeed. Not even to be the best, but to find my purpose.

My Hopes for this Next Year- Kalin Rowley, senior

2020 has been quite the rollercoaster. From wildfires, potential wars, dancing hurricanes, and murder hornets to the COVID pandemic, absolutely no one knew what was coming at the beginning of the year. And while it has been rough for just about everyone, there are some incredible things that have come out of this year. Because of everything we have been through you can crack a joke with just about any stranger (from 6 feet away of course). Students are actually glad when they get to go to school. Being able to see someone's entire face is exciting. When we get to leave the house and see our friends or family members, we appreciate it so much more. And while I don't want a repeat of 2020 in this coming year, I hope that as this vaccine comes out and we get to go back to some sort of a normalcy, none of us forget just how special everyday life is. Getting to get up and go to work or school. Being able to hug your friends. Not having to wear a mask. Being able to smile at a stranger. Getting to be physically close to our loved ones again. Not feeling guilty for leaving the house because you simply cannot stand being in the same four walls for a minute longer. Getting to celebrate holidays with more than just your immediate family. All these things that seemed so normal and were taken away. I hope that we never forget just how special this life is, and live every day to the fullest.



On a personal note, I hope that I get a somewhat normal end to my Senior year. I hope I get to walk across the stage with my classmates and that my family gets to come celebrate. I hope I can go see my oldest brother graduate from college. I hope that I get to hug my mom as she hands me my diploma. So far, my senior year has been far from what I imagined it would be and I am fine with that, I just hope that as it comes to a close I can grow closer to my classmates and get to see them smile as we finish this incredible chapter of our lives. I hope that as I start college at Kansas State University in the fall, I don't have to worry if I am too close to my new friends and that I can have the freshman year I have always dreamed of. I hope we can get back to a new normal. Remember that every day we wear our masks, social distance, and wash our hands we are one day closer to getting back to normal. Stay strong and best wishes on a fantastic 2021!

My Hopes for 2021 by Bailey Bevan, sophomore

My freshman year of high school was full of ups and downs, twists and turns. But no doubt the biggest twist of all was when the pandemic hit and I couldn't do track, my favorite sport. I have been doing hurdles and sprints in track since 7th grade, and I was pretty darn good at hurdles too. I have 5 medals and 10 ribbons from 7th and 8th grade combined. I was so excited because I wanted to try and break the school record which is just 2 seconds faster than my personal record, but then we didn't get to have track season. My sophomore year I am hoping that I can start doing track again. I will be rusty and it will be hard to start doing it again, but I am really looking forward to it. We are finding ways to safely do sports and compete. There is no doubt in my mind that if I get a track season this won't be my best year, and I am so excited to hopefully have this opportunity to do this.

Though I am hoping and praying that I get my season, there are other things that I am hoping not to happen. I am hoping that our country won't get shut down again. I am hoping that that will not happen. And that the numbers for Covid keep lowering. I want as much time on the track as I can. I already lost one year. I don't want to lose another one. This is my only chance for a college education. I can only afford to go to college on a scholarship, and my best way of doing that is through track.

My Hopes for 2021 by Gracie Ast, senior

This year has been hard on a lot of people because of the changes and all the things that people are going through. There have also been many positive outcomes from this year. One of them is that families have gotten a lot closer now because they are in quarantine. It has brought me and my friends closer since we haven't been in school. We would hang out a lot more than we usually would if we were in school. With school being in session me and my friends would normally only hang out on the weekends. Another thing is that there have been a lot more acceptable things in society. For instance style in clothing has changed and so has the way people look at each other. People are now understanding that it is okay to be who you are and to be proud of yourself in your own skin.

This year we have gone from being in school all day to full remote for a couple of weeks and now we are on hybrid. I hope that by the end of the year we are all in school together and I get to spend the last days of my high school life with all my friends in the same building. It is hard not going to school with all of my friends. But at the same time, it has been nice because I have become closer with some of my other friends. Academic wise, I hope that next semester will be a lot easier than this semester has been. I have definitely worked harder in classes this semester to try and keep up with my work when I am at home. I hope that by the end of the year I will be able to have my last days of high school with the whole senior class rather than with half of them at school and half at home.