



Mason Family Connection

Stay involved with your student and
George Mason



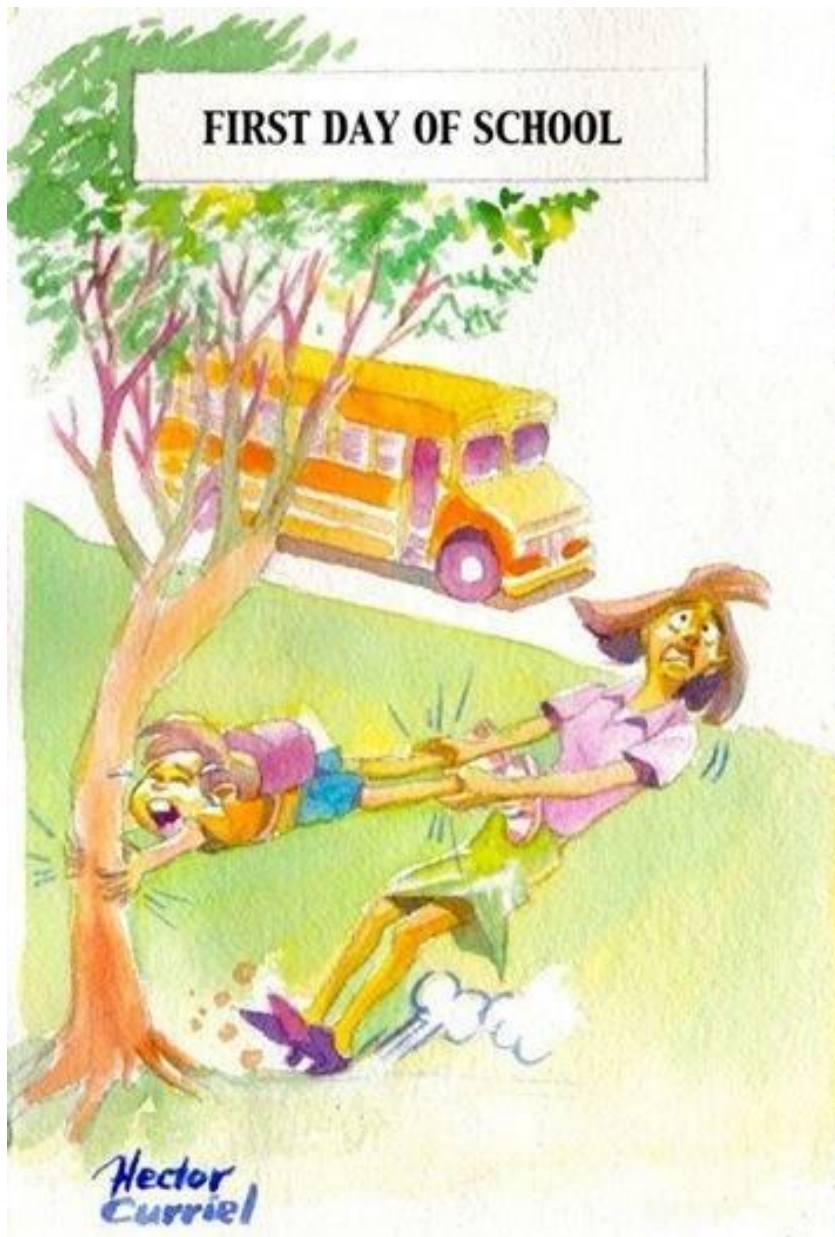
Objectives

- Introduce tips for meaningful and necessary conversations about the student's upcoming transition to college.
- Provide space for networking with fellow Mason families.
- Introduce you to ways to stay connected with Mason Family Programs.

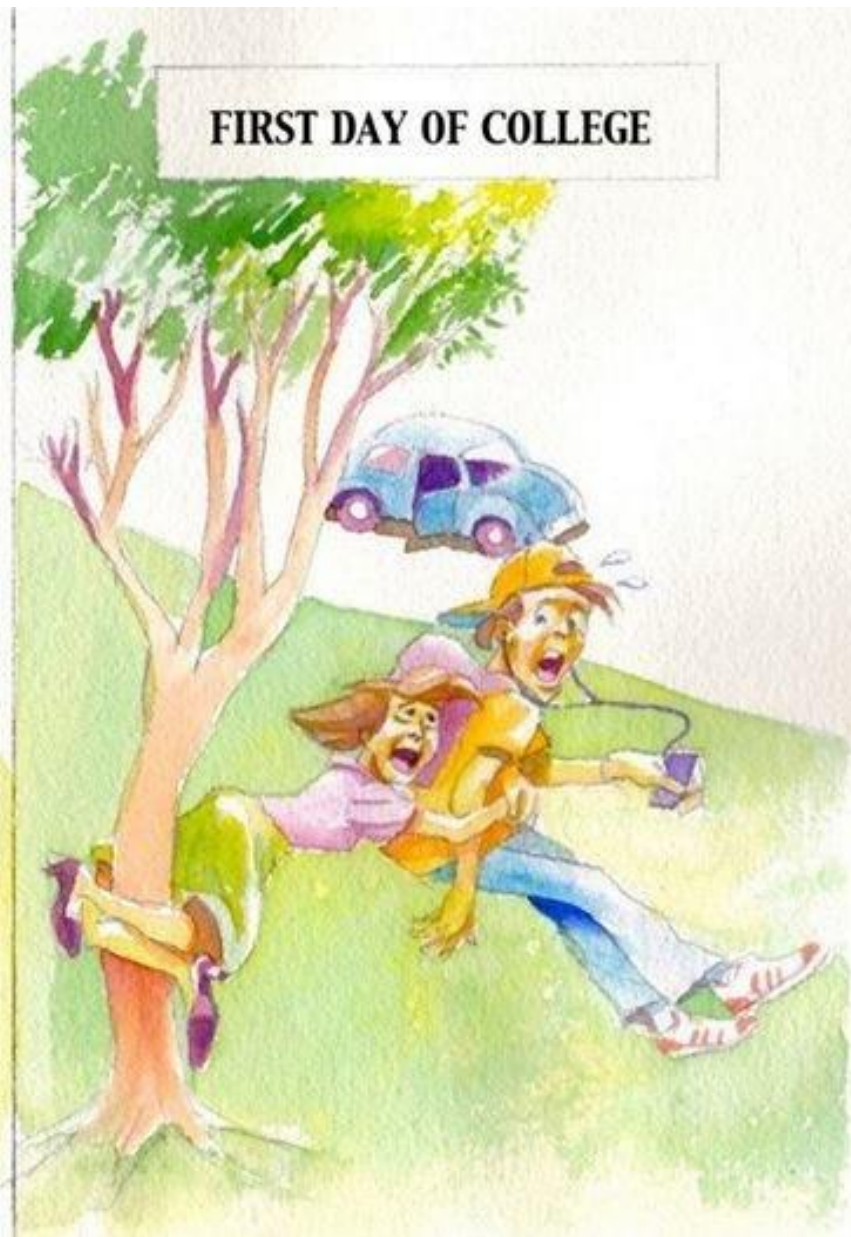


Navigating Territories

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



FIRST DAY OF COLLEGE



Sweetie,
it's time
for him
to go to
college.

WAIT! What's our
Wi-fi password?
How do I back
up my computer?
DON'T GO!!

↑Departures ✈







What will your role be now?

- Students are responsible for sharing + notifying their family of grades, issues, etc.
- Families encouraged to be involved by engaging in the Mason Family community + participating in programs.

Establishing the new "normal"

- Determine frequency of visits and calls
- Expectations for holiday breaks
- Boundaries and rules at home vs. Mason
- Responsibility to know and communicate deadlines



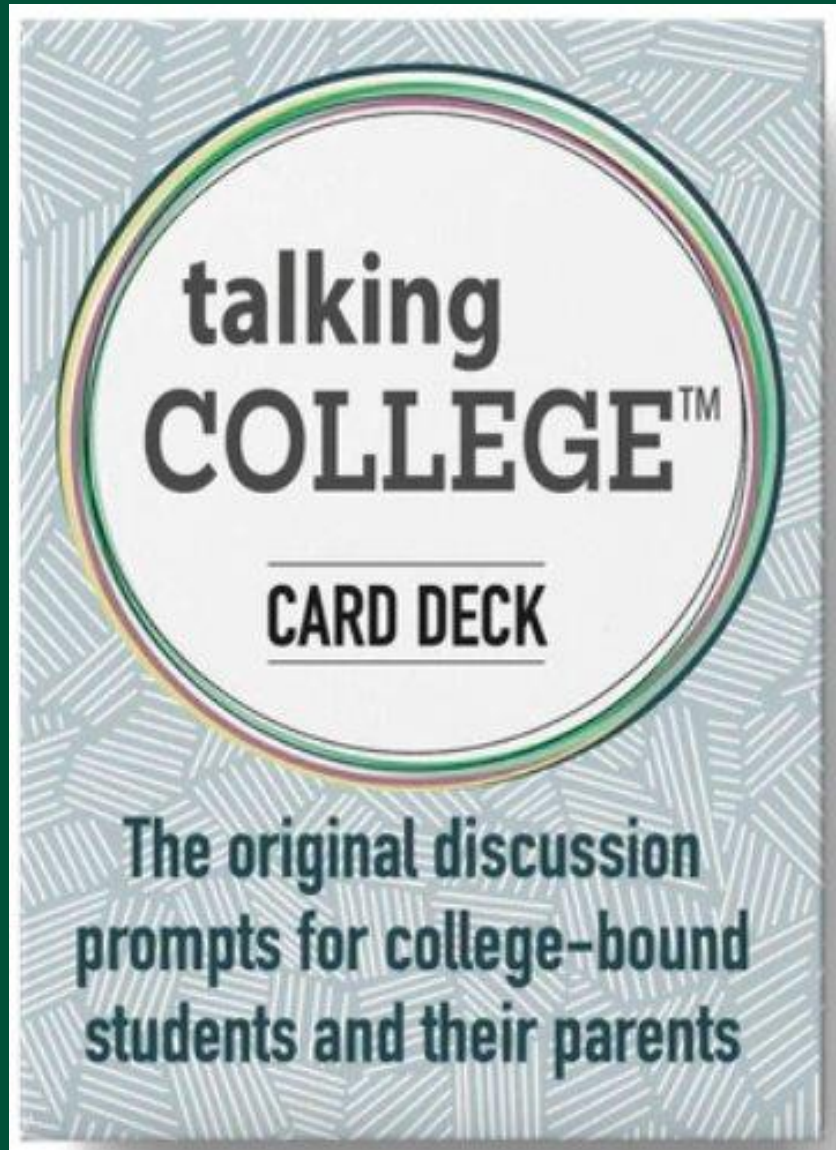
Important Lessons

Decision making

Problem solving

Accountability and
consequences





Talking College Card Deck Activity

- Created by Dr. Andrea Malkin Brenner, the Talking College Card Deck™ features original discussion prompts for college-bound students and their parents.
- Dr. Brenner is an expert speaker on the transition from high school to college. She draws on her 25 years of experience as a college professor and university administrator.

Prepare for the Transition

- These are prompts for conversations with your college students, not platforms for lecture.
- Every family is unique. All these topics are important for college students to think about, but not all the conversations may feel appropriate for your family.
- This is just the beginning of many important conversations to come between you and your student in the years ahead.

Let's Chat!

- Gather with your group
- Introduce yourself to group
 - Name, hometown, student classification, student major
- Soon, you will reference the screen and think about how you would respond to the question being asked. For now, find a partner and decide who will play the role of “student” and who will play the roll of “parent/family member/supporter”
- Share out and reflect with group members

Responsible Communication

Parent/Guardian:

What is most important for you to know about how your student is managing their first weeks in college?

Student:

What is most important for you to know about life at home when you are away?

Roommates And Friendships

Student:

The majority of colleges are more economically diverse than most high schools.

How might you approach a situation where a new college friend cannot afford things that you can afford or where you cannot afford things that others can (such as a restaurant meal or concert ticket)?

Parent/Guardian:

Do you have advice to offer based on your lived experiences?

Sleeping

Student:

What are some ways to develop a healthy sleep routine in college, considering:

- The influence of technology?
- Your sleep and wake times?
- Napping?
- The way you schedule your classes?
- Negotiating quiet time with roommates?

Research these if you are unsure.

Protecting Yourself And Others

Student:

What are the potential dangers of traveling alone, especially at night, on campus or in your new college town?

What safety services does your college offer (e.g. campus alerts, blue light systems, safety escorts)?

Research these topics on your college's Office of Public Safety webpage.



Key Takeaways

1. Perspective-taking is crucial for the transitions to college for students and parents.
2. Encourage and normalize challenges and mistakes; discuss how your student will handle them in college.
3. Begin to work early on the teachable life skills they will need for college (and beyond).
4. With your student, explore ways to be connected on campus and help prepare them for the differences between high school and college.
5. Shift language with STUDENT as problem-solving lead and begin to discuss college scenarios, wellness, and upcoming discussions.



Resources





Mason Family Connection

Official platform for family communication and engagement

Sign up at
gmu.CampusESP.com





2024-2025 Family Calendar

- Yearly publication that includes important dates, deadlines, tips and reminders.
- Digital copy available in Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Standard Arabic, Hindi and Vietnamese.

MasonFamily.gmu.edu/Publications

Discounted Room Rates at Marriott Hotels

- Take advantage of our special rates as you plan to visit Mason!
Use code G57 to book: MasonFamily.gmu.edu/Where-To-Stay



COURTYARD®
Marriott®

SPRINGHILL SUITES®
MARRIOTT

Residence
Inn®
Marriott®

Care Packages with CampusCube

Send a hug from home

- Whether it is to celebrate a birthday, support during finals week, or just because, CampusCube has you covered.
- Allergen friendly options available. Scan the QR code to see their website!



www.CollegeCarePackages.com/gmu

Events



Family Support Series

- Monthly Webinars (All year long!)
- Campus offices will share important resources related to a specific topic to help you support your student.
- Recordings available at MasonFamily.gmu.edu/Family-Support-Series.



Family Farewell

August 21, 2024

Meet us at Move-in and
stop by our Family
Farewell Tent!



Family Weekend

October 18 – 20, 2024

Engage with us during our
annual university-wide
celebration!

Registration is available
through Mason Family
Connection.

<https://masonfamily.gmu.edu/family-events/family-weekend/>



Involvement



Parent and Family Council

Welcome to our 2024 **Parent and Family Council (PAFC)**!

PAFC MEMBERS

Swapna Agarwal; Ashburn, VA
Angela Boone; Birmingham, AL
Carol Brown; Springfield, VA
Rhonda Chezek-Peters; Alexandria, VA
Karin DiMaggio; Virginia Beach, VA
Faisal Hasan; Fairfax, VA
Kelly Jaynes; Apex, NC
Amy Jospa; Plainview, NY
Yasmeen Lalani; Dallas, TX
Nancy Lu; Herndon, VA
Peter Moyer; Darnestown, MD
Renee Myers; Lumberton, NJ
Pam O'Connor; Raleigh, NC
Alicia Ransom, PhD; Knoxville, TN
Cherice Taylor; Stafford, VA
Dawn Timmons-Jones; Stafford, VA
Jill Wallis; Fairfax, VA
Allyson Zak; Richmond, VA

Learn more about the council here: bit.ly/MasonPAFC

For more information about the council or how to get involved, contact us at families@gmu.edu or 703-993-2475.

- Families of current Mason students
- Actively engaged, informed volunteers
- Serve as ambassadors for the university and families

Family of the Year

- Dr. Alan and Sally Merten Family of the Year Award recognizes the role families play in the support of current Mason Students
- Nomination based process – nominations open June 1 and close August 4
- Family of the Year is awarded during Family Weekend!



Parent and Family Fund

- Opportunity to invest in the Mason student experience
- Give a gift of any size
- Funds raised support strategic initiatives that provide direct student support services
- Examples include Unpaid Internship Scholarships, Patriot Pantry donations, and Alternative Break Trips





New Student and Family Programs

MasonFamily.gmu.edu

Gmu.CampusESP.com

(703) 993-2475

families@gmu.edu

@MasonNSFP

