



FIRST DAY TO FIRST WEEK: LAUNCHING THE SEMESTER

Dear MCC Community,

The fall semester is here, and we're thrilled to welcome our Highlanders to campus! Whether your student is new to college or returning, the first week sets the tone for the rest of the semester. There's excitement, uncertainty, and a lot to keep track of—and your support makes a real difference.

This month, we're highlighting a few small actions that can lead to a smoother start. Each section includes simple questions in a coaching style to help spark reflection and open conversation. You're not just cheering from the sidelines—you're helping your student build the habits, mindset, and confidence they'll carry all semester long. Thank you for being a vital part of their journey.

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CONFIRM THE DETAILS

Schedule, Books, & BrightSpace Access

Talk with your student about double-checking their course schedule, purchasing any required textbooks, and logging into Brightspace to explore each course before the first day of class. Getting familiar with their course materials and expectations early can ease first-week stress and set them up for success. Having these essentials in place early reduces stress during the first week.

TRY ASKING

- “How do your classes look—are you feeling good about the flow of your schedule?”
- “What's your strategy for getting organized as the semester begins?”

LINKS

- [MyMCC](#) (for students)
- [BrightSpace](#)
- [Bookstore](#)

IMPORTANT FALL DATES

- **August 25 - 28:** First week of Fall 2025 classes
- **September 1:** MCC closed for Labor Day
- **October 17:** MCC closed for Fall Break
- **October 29:** Registration for Spring 2026 opens
- **November 26 - 30:** MCC closed for Thanksgiving Break
- **December 8 - 11:** Final exams
- **December 12 - January 4:** Winter break

COACHING WITH CARE

Asking open-ended questions—rather than giving instructions—can help your student take ownership of their experience. The prompts below are designed to invite thoughtful reflection and build self-confidence. Even a short, casual check-in can have a lasting impact.

GOING TO CLASS MATTERS

It's essential that your student attends their classes in person or logs into Brightspace for online courses—and completes all assignments by the deadline, especially during the first week.

Missing early participation requirements can lead to being dropped from a course due to non-attendance or non-participation, which is required by federal guidelines.

A strong start in the first week sets the tone for the rest of the semester.

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

You might help your student think through how they'll get to and from campus each day. Parking stickers (these are free at MCC!), bus routes, and travel time are easy to overlook but essential for a smooth routine. MCC also offers free student bus passes.

TRY ASKING

- “What do you think your mornings will look like getting to campus?”
- “Do you feel prepared to navigate your first day logistically?”

LINKS

- [Campus map](#)
- [Parking information](#)
- [Bus passes](#)
- [Waco Transit Bus Tracker](#)

SUPPORTING A SMOOTH TRANSITION

Encourage your student to attend welcome events, introduce themselves to instructors, and reach out to Success Coaching Services if they're feeling unsure. These early connections can make all the difference in feeling settled.

TRY ASKING

- “What's one thing you could do this week to help you feel more at home on campus?”
- “Who do you think might be helpful to get to know early on?”

LINKS

- [Student Life](#)
- [Success Coaching Services](#)
- [MCC Calendar](#)

