

College Readiness for Parents—Auburn Public Schools, January 20

Selections from Dr. Holloway's "Dear Freshmen" assignment

Framingham State College

Time Management

- Early on, it feels like you have so much time because you are not actually in class as much, but professors assign a bunch of work that you are supposed to be mature enough to do on your own. The large assignments seem to pile up later but really they don't. **It's just that most of us didn't start working on them when we should have, and our parents aren't there to remind us.**
- For me my first semester is a time I wish I could take back because I did not focus on what we got into college for, school. I spent too much time playing videogames and hanging around rather than studying, reading, and doing homework. Like I said before, you need to focus on the things that are important in college and most of all cherish the time that you have before and be prepared for it.
- Believe it or not, the hardest part about the first week of college is not trying to make friends or finding the best place to go on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night. Nor is it the level of difficulty in any of your classes. The hardest part of the adjustment from high school to college that I found was the ability of learning time management.
- My grades are not as good as they could have been if I had realized that what I was doing was wrong earlier in the semester. Incoming freshman need to understand that even though they have so much more freedom and can do anything as they please, they are going to be kicking themselves at the end of the semester when they could potentially fail out of college if they do not get their priorities straight.
- I understand now that in high school, a student could get away with poor time management skills, but this will not do in college. **Back in high school, my mom would always take care of me, reminding me of deadlines and making sure that I turned in my assignments on time. I felt deeply dependent on my family; probably more so than I should have at age eighteen.**
- If you get a project in the beginning of the semester, start working on it right then and not at the end of the semester. Procrastinating is a huge part of failing. Professors give you time to work on projects, and they expect them to be thoughtfully and thoroughly done.

Responsibility

- **I didn't realize until I was here for about a month that I had always relied on my mom to tell me/remind me to do my homework.** I would get out of class, knowing I had work to do, but I would go play basketball or pool or hang out in someone's dorm playing video games. Then I would eat and hang out some more. I often didn't remember until someone else said they had to go do work or someone from one of my classes asked me about an assignment. **I missed a lot of deadlines and felt stupid because I had always been considered a good student before but really before it had been my mom making sure I was a good student not me. I never had to remember anything on my own.**
- One thing you may never be told is that college is about balancing friends, fun, and also school. **With more freedom from your parents, it means that you need to be more responsible and not have to be told to do your work or write your essay before you go out and have fun.**
- I was the happiest girl in the world when I got my ATM card to go to college with. I felt like everything was free because I just had to swipe my card. That is not the case. Money runs out very quickly if you do not budget correctly.
- The first few weeks of school, I did not take into account that I only had limited funds. I would go out to eat, go to the mall and pick up a shirt or two, or order food a few nights a week. Little things like that, not realizing how much everything added up. Besides food and clothes, I needed to budget my money so that I could afford the other basic necessities for living. **Since I was on my own, I needed**

to pay for items like shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and especially laundry. You don't want to have to choose between deodorant and toothpaste. That is not the way to meet girls.

Accountability

- You have to learn everything in moderation. You cannot make up for not partying in high school by partying every night in college; it's simply a bad idea.
- My dream as a kid was to get the best education and to play football while I did it. Being an athlete at the college level can be difficult, especially as a freshman. Not only are you expected to complete and do well on all academic assignments, you also have to attend practices, meetings, and games related to your sport. I expected college football to be similar to high school in relation to time. However, I was surprised to find out that much more time is spent preparing to defeat our opponents. At the beginning of the semester, I was so overwhelmed with trying to succeed on the field that I let my schoolwork come second. Before long, my grades began to suffer, and I realized that I had dug myself into a hole.
- No one had spelled out to me that college is nothing like high school. Let me say that again so you can understand it, COLLEGE IS NOTHING LIKE HIGH SCHOOL. Most of your teachers don't care if you make it to class and if they do have an absence policy, you better know it. They will not chase you for work or give you extra credit if you are failing. They often don't go over the reading assignments but expect you to read on your own and come to class prepared to discuss what was read. They expect you to come in and get help.
- **Professors are not afraid of your parents**, so you can complain to them all you want. You will still have to answer for not getting help when you should have. You need to go to office hours or tutoring on your own. That failing grade is yours, not your parents'.
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Social Awareness

- Along with all the new friends you will be making, you will be faced with new pressures, too. Some people might want to go out "partying" and do things you feel uncomfortable doing. Do not feel like you have to be a part of this crowd. If you are not this kind of person, do not worry; there will be other people like you no matter what you want to do. Be yourself and do what you want. Do not be afraid to stand up for yourself. Think for yourself, be smart, and make wise decisions.
- When I first arrived, my first thought was "I don't want to be here." I instantly hated everything about it: the food, my dorm, the people, and my classes. It took me awhile to see that I was using hate to cover up my fear. **I kept thinking that if I complained enough, my parents would let me come home. I blocked out all the good stuff that was happening, and I know now that I missed out on making some friends and getting some of the help with school I could have used.**
- You need to be open to meeting new people and gaining new friends. I was told that college would be awesome, but I hated it at first being away from my comfort level at home. I thought I was alone in feeling lonely, but many of the people who are now my best friends say that they felt the same way.
- Living with a stranger can be hard. I had never even had to share my room, so I thought it would be hard for me to change, but it wasn't. It is easy to get to know your roommate, and if you have trouble, there are people in the dorms to help.
- I am broke just like most other college students. The funny thing is that I am having more fun than I ever had in high school when I did have a job and plenty of money. I am meeting new people and taking advantage of the opportunities that surround me. For example, every so often the college shows a movie in Dwight Hall, free of cost. Students who belong to the club called SUAB host bingo once a month and give away amazing prizes such as flat screen televisions at no cost. There is always something going on around campus, and most of the time it is free and fun!