

## ***A letter from a caring faculty member to a new dual enrollment student***

Dear Dual Enrollment Student,

Congratulations on taking this first step towards experiencing college. Because being a dual credit student can be a bit tricky, I wanted to provide some extra information to help get you started.

To me, dual credit represents a calculated risk. Upon successful completion of this course, you'll receive college credit as well as high school credit. But, your success here affects your high school GPA (and credits toward graduation) as well as your college GPA (this may or may not matter depending on your transfer plans). Because there is quite a lot at stake, **I know you'll do your best work for me.**

How to set yourself up for success

It's important to realize that there is some natural struggle transitioning from a high school to a college mindset. However, that struggle is harder for dual credit students as they have to negotiate both high school and college simultaneously. Here's what you need/need to do to be successful

- **Self-advocacy.** If you need help, speak up! It can feel like there's nobody there supporting you, but that's only if you toil alone and in silence.
- **Self-sufficiency.** Don't remember which page a certain text is on? Take a look at the textbook's index! Don't really understand the definition of a term the book provides or how to use that information cogently in discussion? Google it! Success as a grown-up relies on your ability to conjure information.
- **Self-direction.** While faculty use certain tools available to push out critical information (like e-mail notifications and sometimes text notifications), I won't communicate with you every day. That means nobody is hovering over you, which can be a relief, but it also means you need to own your decision to binge watch Netflix instead of read your novel and make the choice to carve that time from some other activity.
- **A reality check.** *Everyone is on your team.* You have a teacher or another contact person on your campus whose role is to help you interface with the college (paperwork, policies, etc.). You also may have someone on your campus, like your English teacher or Study Hall teacher, who is helping you with content either at your request or according to the practices of your district/campus. And, you have me! **I'm your primary contact at the college** - you have my email and phone number so that you can reach out to me at any time. You also have many other people, including the tutors in the college's [Academic Success Center \(tutoring lab\)](#) for extra help, a contact person and/or teacher on your high school campus for paperwork help, and the college's [Technology Assistance Center](#) for tech help. Succumbing to thinking that we're not on your team undermines your success.

What's your parents' and teacher's role?

My relationship is with you, not with the other adults in your corner. Our relationship is largely defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which guarantees the privacy of your academic record in college unless you've signed a release that grants access to that information to others, like parents or counselors. That means that you have to be the one to initiate contact with me about your work (you can't have your mom do it for you) and that you'll be the first one I come to with questions about grades, virtual attendance, or other pieces of your academic record.

Overall, there are many people who care about your success in this class but if you need help, you need to ask. Thanks for investing your time at Great Falls College MSU.