

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

Student is calling home and needs encouragement

- Student: Hey, Mom! I'm not doing very well.
- Mom: What's wrong?
- Student: You know, this is a big adjustment. I don't really know anyone. No one is talking to me. I don't know what to do. This is not what I thought it would be. I really want to go home.
- Mom: I'm sorry you're having a hard time, but it's going to get better. Remember getting your orientation card and the activities that were listed. Wait just minute I have the card. Here it is! There's a \$3 movie night coming up and so is an ice cream social. Those events should give you an opportunities to meet some classmates. There's bingo, bowling and a casino night also coming up soon.
- Student: (sound unhappy) I do like going to the movies and the casino night seems like fun.
- Mom: I was reading on the Internet about Great Bend. They have a 6 screen movie theater, a nice variety of dining establishments and some unique shops to the area. Some nature areas including a zoo and something about Kansas Wetlands Education Center and a place called Cheyenne Bottoms. You have always made friends easily. Suggest to your suite mates to do some exploring. It won't be long and you will have some new friends.
- Student: Mom, hope you're right. I haven't been out much. I don't even know where to find the bookstore or where any of my classes meet. I don't have any more money. I really just want to come home. I'll find a job.
- Mom: It will get better. Everyone feels the same way. It's all new surroundings for everyone. Just ask someone. They will help you find the different buildings. Remember on the campus tour, the bookstore and the cafeteria are both in the Union. Sometime before classes start, take your class schedule and walk around and locate your classes. The campus is on a circle. It shouldn't be hard to find the right buildings.
- Student: I don't like the roommate. She plays music all night and eats my food. She's using more than her half of the room. This is not working out. I've never had to share my room.
- Mom: It's going to take time. Everyone is adjusting just like you. It will get better. Talk to her and let her know what bothers you and she will do the same thing. This is just the start of learning about each other. What's your roommate's name?
- Student: aaaaa . . .I don't know.
- Mom: Talk to her. Make her your first friend. It's hard for her too. When we talk again I want to know her name, where she's from and what her parents do for a living.
- Student: Okay! Okay! Okay! I'm getting the message. But I still need more money!

SECOND WEEK OF SCHOOL

Student is overcome by school & campus life

- Mom: Hello!
- Student: Hello mom?
- Mom: It's good to hear from you. How is everything going?
- Student: (student talks very fast) Mom, its not working out. The teachers have assigned a ton of homework, I don't understand half of it, I'm already out of clean clothes. I've had to wear jeans twice without washing them! I don't know how to do my laundry.
- Mom: Take a deep breath! The only thing that's different is the machine! You do laundry. Remember to read the tags. Some of your stuff needs to be washed on delicate and some needs to air dried. You have to schedule time to do your laundry.
- Student: I don't have TIME to do laundry!! I have all this homework I don't understand!
- Mom: I saw some tables in the laundry room in the Commons Building. That might be a good place to do two things at one time - study and laundry. If you are having problems with classes, go to the instructor. They will help you. I remember something about tutors during the campus tour. Check in the Library.
- Student: Okay, maybe the tutors can help me.
- Mom: You should remember this stuff. What were you doing during the campus tour?
- Student: Checking out the tour guide! By the way can you send me some money?
- Mom: We gave you money when we dropped you off?
- Student: Yeah, but I don't want to spend MY own money when I'm in town.

MIDTERM

Student is just checking in at home

- Student: Hi Dad!
- Dad: Hello, so glad you called.
- Student: I haven't talked to you in a while.

Dad: I know! Your Mom and I were wondering how you were getting along?

Student: Everything is great! School is great! I have made a lot of friends. We do a lot of things together. I really like it here.

Dad: How's the homework coming along?

Student: Well, I'm keeping up on it, but you know how it is.

Dad: How are your grades?

Student: (hesitantly) UhI'm doing alright.

Dad: Just alright?

Student: (act relieved) Yea. Classes are a bit harder than I thought.

Dad: We haven't seen you for a while. When are you coming home?

Student: Well, not until Thanksgiving. I'm pretty busy here with classes. The college has a lot of student activities, I got my friends, I met a girl and I really like it here.

Dad: Well, we just wanted to let you know we miss you. Mom sends her love too!

Student: I miss you too! Hey, gotta run. I have another call on my cell. Oh, by the way, Dad, . . .could you SEND MORE MONEY!!