Some Tips from other GVSU Parents on Preparing for College:

- Make sure you agree on how you will communicate about grades.
  - What are the financial and privilege consequences? If your child receives a scholarship, be sure he or she understands the criteria.
- Set clear expectations about how finances will be managed.
  - Who pays the bill? What is expected in terms of work, loans and financial aid planning?
- Be a mentor – listen, and offer suggestions and ideas; resist doing planning or tasks for them.
  - Example, “I’m sorry you’re struggling with that assignment. Have you looked into getting a tutor? I read in the Family Association newsletter that tutoring is free.”
  - Give your child freedom to explore options and make decisions. Example, “I’m glad you have found some things you’re passionate about. So, how do you see a computer science major and a dance minor working together? What did your advisor say?”
- Some academic programs are very competitive. Ask your child to develop and share his or her “Plan B”.
  - Suggest they form early and relationships with Academic Advising and Career Services – know what they can do with their major and how the classes they take apply in other areas.
- Create a communication plan together.
  - How often will you talk? How frequently will you spend time together? What is the protocol for “emergencies” like getting locked out of their car or apartment?

3 Good Reads:

1. **The Happiest Kid on Campus**, by Harlan Cohen – funny, modern, direct
2. **You’re On Your Own (but I’m here if you need me)**, by Marjorie Savage – written by an expert in the field of college/parent relations
3. **1001 Things Every College Student Needs to Know**, by Harry H. Harrison, Jr. – a book for you to read and then pass on to your child