April 17, 2020

**Student Orientation to be Held Virtually**

Over the last few weeks, New Student and Family Programs staff and University Life leadership explored alternate plans for Summer Orientation given the evolving coronavirus situation. The recent decisions from the state of Virginia regarding stay at home orders until June 10, the university’s plan to not hold events prior to July 1, and conversations with institutions around the state and region were all taken into account.

With the health and safety of the university community being paramount, the decision has been made to move Orientation online for Summer 2020 and to cancel our Quill Camp programs. The decision was not made lightly, but the university is committed to producing a high-quality virtual experience to help students and families transition successfully into Mason.

In this new format, students will continue to register for an Orientation date. Students who have already registered will keep their spot. Some aspects of the virtual Student Orientation will still occur on the same day as their scheduled in-person program, while other content will be pre-recorded and available to view at their own pace. More information about the Orientation process and next steps will be communicated with students via email as they become available.

Additionally, the university recognizes the important role families play in their student’s development and success as Mason, which is why a virtual Family Orientation will be offered at no charge and all guest fees will be refunded.

As to not overwhelm students and families, content and engagement points are being prioritized and timely and relevant information will be provided throughout the transition. First-year programming, including the Preamble and Welcome2Mason events, is still being planned for the first weeks of classes and will account for many elements taken out of the traditional orientation schedule.

The university’s goal is to support our incoming students and families and provide an exceptional virtual experience. Many of the details are still being worked out, so your understanding and patience during this expedited planning process is greatly appreciated.

If you have questions regarding these changes to Summer Orientation, visit orientation.gmu.edu, or contact our office at (703) 993-2475 or orientu@gmu.edu.