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Parents, Students Prepare for First Year of College

During these economic times, parents we spoke with at Marietta College Saturday said higher education is worth the money.

Families, professors, and students shared their experiences and advice Saturday for first-time freshmen at the last Freshmen Enrollment Day.

Gerri Henwood and her husband, Tom, have already helped put five of their children through college.

Now they're getting ready for their youngest son, Peter, to head off to Marietta College this fall.

"It's a challenging thing. We were fortunate to have had some success in a boot strap business that helped us to be able to afford it and I think our children's academic and athletic accomplishments helped but it's cobbling things together and deciding that it's really not important to have vacation during the years that the kids are in college and you just defer that to a later time," said Gerri Henwood, who's a resident of Malvern, PA.

If you're looking for financial help, the college financial aid office is there to help.

"We were pleased with how much Marietta helped us through it. Of course today with everything being online, the FAFSA, and things like that. It's important to do it and to get it done early," said first-time freshman parent, Scott Thompson.

The class of 2012 is different this year in that their GPA's and SAT/ACT scores are higher but some of the challenges are the same for students and parents.

I've kind of always overshadowed a little too much so I've got to learn to break that away," said Ruth Forshey, who's son is a first-time freshman at Marietta College this year. She's also a Marietta resident.

Henwood said "I think trust your child. Trust that what you've taught them and the values that you've given them will have a chance to bubble through and don't be too interventional too fast."

Students said they're looking forward to the opportunity ahead.

"You know from our point of view giving kids a chance at an advanced education is probably the most important investment you can make in them," Henwood said.

She said education is something students can't lose, no one can take away from them, and something that's valuable for the rest of their lives.

There are 389 students enrolled in this year's freshman class.

It's a little smaller than last year's because officials said the retention rate has been high.