Dear Parents and Families of Students in the Class of 2023:

The brilliant colors of the fall are still on full display, but with the days becoming shorter and the nights longer, in no time at all there will be snow on Foss Hill. Students have begun pre-register for spring 2022 courses and soon they will be setting their sights on the end of the semester, making plans and scheduling time to work on final papers, projects and exams. The last day of classes (December 10), as well as reading period (December 11-14) and final exams (December 14-18). Housing will close at 12:00 noon on December 19 and will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on January 17. Winter Session will run from January 4-19 and will offer both online and in-person courses.

While your students have obviously been presented with quite a few obstacles in their time as Wesleyan students, I have been impressed by how resilient they have been throughout given their commitment to their education and each other. This might be a time to take a few moments to consider the growth and development that have been taking place in your student. A lot of learning—academic, social, personal, spiritual, political—has taken place in the Class of 2023 since they arrived on campus in the Fall of 2019, particularly given the many demands placed on them by COVID-19. You have probably already noticed signs of this transformation, as they have grown more independent and confident. Perhaps your student was overwhelmed by the workload in the first semester and has now learned how to manage their time and juggle multiple responsibilities. Perhaps your student has emerged from the social cocoon of high school and has developed friendships with students from other parts of the world with diverse interests and backgrounds. Perhaps your student has discovered a passion for learning in a field of study that they did not even know existed when they were still in high school. This point in the college career can be a good time to ask your student to reflect on these changes: “What have you learned about yourself in the past two and a half years?” “How has college experience helped change your understanding of the world?” “How is Wesleyan helping you shape your future?”

As we approach the spring term, your student should be considering the possibility of writing an honors thesis or pursuing a capstone experience during their senior year. In addition, their energy will be on making sure that they will fulfill the degree requirements, developing good professional relationships with their advisors and instructors, using the resources available within the Gordon Career Center and, if applicable, preparing for study abroad.
Wesleyan University

I will be writing to you again in the early spring. In the meantime, please feel free to call or write if you have any questions or concerns and please encourage your student to connect me if they have any questions.

Take good care,