

Dear Parents of the Class of 2023,

Welcome to Wesleyan!

This is the first of many letters that I will send to you over the next four years. I am looking forward to meeting your student and you on Arrival Day. As your student's class dean, my job is to provide information, advice, and support to students. While my primary concern is with student academic growth and intellectual development, this concern naturally extends to personal growth within the context of the residential liberal arts environment. This is the essence of the Wesleyan educational experience. If you sense that your student has academic concerns or may need personal advice or support, please encourage a visit to my office to meet with me. I have daily drop-in hours and I'm also available for appointments.

Beside the [class dean](#), the following three key resources will guide your student through the start of classes and getting settled at Wes:

- [Faculty Advisors](#) are faculty who provide guidance regarding academic plans and authorize the student course schedule each semester
- [Academic Peer Advisors](#) are fellow students who have undergone extensive training regarding academic resources and skills and can help new students navigate the Wesleyan support structures
- [Resident Advisors](#) are upper class students who are trained and knowledgeable about Wesleyan's co-curricular resources and who provide new students with opportunities for personal growth and community engagement in the residential halls

On Sunday, August 25, we will welcome to campus students who will be participating in our International Student Orientation and First Things First pre-orientation, and on Wednesday, August 28, **Arrival Day**, the [New Student Orientation Program](#) will officially get underway. There will be events and workshops for parents to attend on that day.

The orientation programs are designed to equip students with valuable information about academic, health, co-curricular, and community resources that will help them to make a smooth transition to Wesleyan.

College is also a time of transition for parents, as they must negotiate their student's new found independence. It is reasonable that many parents still feel a need to remain involved in the lives of their students while respecting their autonomy. Below are a few of the resources that we designed to address the specific concerns of parents:

- [The Parent Program website](#) provides valuable information and a community of support

- [Parents' Questions for Students](#) is a guide to the kinds of academic, co-curricular, and personal challenges that students typically face during their time at Wesleyan.
- The [Class of 2023 blog](#) features important academic and Wesleyan-focused notifications shared with students about campus events, upcoming deadlines, and career opportunities.
- [Family Weekend](#) (November 1-3) provides an opportunity for families to experience life at Wes by attending classes and WESeminars, enjoying campus meals, cheering on our teams, and much more. I will be holding drop-in hours for parents on Saturday, November 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on a first-come first-serve basis. Feel free to stop by and say hello if you have a chance.
- The overall [orientation site](#) provides an overview of information students and parents might want to learn more about, such as academic planning, residential living and dining, financial matters, health information as well as other topics.

Over the summer, your students have [pre-registered](#) for fall courses. You will notice in the [New Student Orientation \(NSO\) schedule](#) that they are scheduled to meet with their faculty advisors during NSO to review and confirm their course selections. Additional adjustments to course schedules may continue to take place within the first ten days of class meetings. Please remind your students not to make plans for breaks or end of semester travel until they have checked with their professors about exams and finals as faculty are not obligated to accommodate student travel plans. Once schedules are finalized, students should know when their exams will be administered.

Although your student has relocated to Middletown, Connecticut, your continued love and encouragement will only further enhance your student's college experience and preparation for life. We welcome you into the Wesleyan family. If you have any concerns over the semester, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, enjoy the remaining weeks of the summer with your soon-to-be first-year student!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Wood
Dean for the Class of 2023
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<https://www.wesleyan.edu/orientation/>