

College Counseling Department Sponsored Events  
2015-2016

**SEPTEMBER**

- **EF College Tour Info Session** (for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade families)  
*Monday, September 21, 6:00pm to 7:00pm*  
Having met with much success last year, we will once again enlist EF (Education First) to take our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders to tour colleges during spring break. Organized tours are a great way for students to get their feet wet in the college search process, while sparing parents from planning logistics, extra costs, and vacation days. This information session will provide tour details and address your questions. Refreshments will be provided.

**OCTOBER**

- **Senior College Night** (for senior families)  
*Tuesday, October 6, 6:30pm to 8pm*  
This program will be anchored by Shawn Abbott, Assistant VP and Dean of Admissions at NYU, and former senior admissions member at Stanford, Columbia, and Boston University. We are excited that he will share insights into what seniors (and their parents) should be prepared for during the application process and beyond. Here's a fun article Shawn wrote for the New York Times in 2012, which is both informative and entertaining:  
<http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/10/college-admissions-advice-for-neurotic-parents/>  
Refreshments will be served starting at 6pm.
- **PSAT** (for all juniors)  
*Wednesday, October 14— 8:15am to 11:15am during the school day*  
The Practice SAT (PSAT) will be administered to all juniors during the school day. Juniors will report to school as usual. As the "P" in the name of the test denotes this is a practice SAT. There is nothing students need to prepare or bring.

- **Independent Schools Multicultural Students Conference and College Fair at Westtown School** (for all Upper School families of color)

*Saturday, October 17, 7am to 7pm*

All Upper School families of color are invited to meet prospective parents and students from diverse racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds from more than 100 independent schools, charter schools, and community based organizations. This has been a biannual tradition since 2003, hosted by Friends at Westtown School in PA—yes, PA! We will be taking participants by private bus early in the morning for a full day of activities, and returning by early evening. To learn more about this event, please visit

<http://www.westtown.edu/page.cfm?p=1000232>

- **CSS Profile Workshop** (for senior parents)

*Tuesday, October 20, 6:30pm to 8:00pm*

The College Student Services Profile is a form many colleges and universities require from financial aid applicants--in addition to the FAFSA form. A financial aid expert will be walking you through the CSS Profile in this workshop. Refreshments will be served.

- **Affordability Workshop** (for all BFS parents)

*Thursday, October 29, 6pm-8pm*

Whether you are wondering how to pay for private school right now, how best to save for your child's college tuition, or learn more about college financing and/or financial aid, you are in for a treat. This informative workshop is co-sponsored by the College Counseling and the Enrollment Offices, and will feature Mark Kantrowitz, Senior VP and Publisher of Edvisors, and a nationally-recognized expert on financial aid, scholarships and student loans. In the last five years, Mark has been quoted over 5,000 times by various publications, including ones he frequently writes for such as the New York Times, US News and World Reports, etc. He has testified before Congress about student aid policy on several occasions and is often interviewed by news outlets. His mission is to deliver practical information, advice and tools to families so they can make informed decisions about planning and paying for college. Parents in all divisions are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

- **Affordability Workshop** (for all BFS parents)  
*Friday, October 30, 8:30am-10:30am*  
This is a repeat of the above program. A light breakfast will be served.

## NOVEMBER

- **Myth Busters: The Truth Behind Standardized Testing (and how to keep your sanity—and dignity) with testing guru Adam Ingersol** (for all US families)  
*Monday, November 2, 6:30pm to 8pm*  
What should I know about the *new* SAT? Is the ACT a better test than the SAT or vice versa—what’s better for me? When should I start testing—is earlier better? What should I know about the PSAT? Should I enroll in a test prep course or get a private tutor? What about testing optional schools? How about SAT subject tests—do they still matter?... Let’s face it, standardized testing looms large in everyone’s mind and generates lots of questions that can lead to test anxiety. Adam Ingersol, founder of Compass Education, is one of the most trusted and knowledgeable test prep experts who will offer great insights into the various standardized tests, what they should mean to you, and provide factual, relevant, and good information regarding testing so that you can make informed decisions with regard to your own testing agenda. After Adam’s program last year, BFS parents and students dubbed him a testing “rock star”. We are thrilled to have Adam conduct this program again. Refreshments will be served at 6:00pm.
- **Chat with the College Counselors** (for all BFS parents)  
*Tuesday, November 17, 9am-10am*  
The college counselors want to get to know you better and for you to get to know us and our programs better. While we spend the bulk of our time with students in the college process, we strongly feel that all parents in our community should have structured time with us. This is a very casual chat for any and all interested parents. We’d love to address your college related questions. Coffee, tea, and a light breakfast will be served.

## DECEMBER

- **Junior College Night** (for junior families)  
*Monday, December 7, 6:30pm to 8pm*  
This program kicks off the junior class' entry into the college process. It will go over the nuts and bolts of the college search and application process for students and parents. The evening will be anchored by an admissions expert who will provide invaluable insights and tips, and we will address your questions. Our friends at Bespoke, a boutique test prep company, will also introduce our on campus test prep courses. Refreshments will be served at 6pm.
- **Intro to College Counseling and Test Prep/Study Skills Courses during IB Night** (for tenth grade families)  
*Tuesday, December 15, 6:30pm-6:45pm*  
While IB Night is mostly focused on the IB program, you will also be introduced to the role of IB with regard to college counseling. In addition, last year we partnered with Bespoke, a boutique test prep company, and a record number of our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in Bespoke classes. We are thrilled, especially in light of the *new* SAT exam, to offer Bespoke classes again this year. Our friends at Bespoke will introduce what is available for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students during our brief College Counseling intro.

## JANUARY

- **FAFSA Workshop** (for senior families)  
*Wednesday, January 13, 6:00pm to 8pm*  
For senior families applying for college Financial Aid, this workshop is a must. Veteran financial aid expert, Mark Kantrowitz, takes you step-by-step through the FAFSA application. Mark is the Senior VP and Publisher of Edvisors, and author of various publications including [\*Filing the FAFSA \(2015-2016 Edition\)\*](#). In the last five years, Mark has been quoted over 5,000 times by various publications, including ones he frequently writes for such as the New York Times, US News and World Reports, etc. He has testified before Congress about student aid policy on several occasions and is often interviewed by news outlets. His insights, tips, and nuanced knowledge of the FAFSA are invaluable for anyone completing the form. Refreshments will be served.

## FEBRUARY

- **Junior Case Studies and College Program** (for junior families)  
*Tuesday, February 2, 6:00pm to 9pm*  
The evening starts with a senior panel—Friends who often have the best advice for students embarking upon the college process. In addition, many college and university representatives will help us conduct the case studies and college program for both juniors and their parents. You will get to sit in the driver’s seat as you decide which applicants get admitted, wait-listed, and denied with the help of admissions veterans who will shed light on how actual admissions decisions are made. The evening will conclude with break out sessions focused on a variety of topics such as: highly selective admissions, engineering/STEM programs, athletics in the admissions process, women’s colleges, liberal arts colleges, art schools, etc. This will be a fun filled and information packed night. Dinner will be served at 5pm.

## APRIL

- **College Financial Aid 101** (for all Upper School families)  
*Wednesday, April 20, 6:00pm to 8pm*  
*at Packer Collegiate, 170 Joralemon Street*  
This is a program we co-host with Packer Collegiate and St. Anne’s for all upper school families interested in learning about the nuts and bolts of college financial aid. The program will be conducted by a senior financial aid expert, and will be packed with useful and timely information.
- **Brooklyn and Staten Island Independent School College Fair** (for all juniors)  
*Thursday, April 28, 12:30pm to 3:30pm during the school day*  
Juniors will be chaperoned to attend this much-anticipated annual college fair. Close to two hundred colleges and universities will be on hand to introduce their institutions to our students—the representatives are usually the very people who read our students’ applications. This is an invaluable opportunity for juniors to get their feet wet in the college search process and to introduce themselves to the various admissions officials at schools they may be interested in. Students will return in time for their after school engagements.

## MAY

- **Chat with the College Counselors** (for all BFS parents)

*Monday, May 23, 6pm-7pm*

The college counselors want to get to know you better and for you to get to know us and our programs better. While we spend the bulk of our time with students in the college process, we strongly feel that all parents in our community should have structured time with us. This is a very casual chat for any and all interested parents. We'd love to address your college related questions. Wine and cheese will be served.

## JUNE

- **Summer Application Workshop** (for all rising seniors)

*Tuesday, June 14, 10am to 2pm*

Yes, this is the first day of summer vacation, but there is nothing better than being ready and armed to attack your college list, applications, and essays over the summer. This is a mandatory workshop for all rising seniors. We will go over the Common Application, question-by-question; discuss effective essay topics and strategies for essay writing; and outline what you should complete over the summer. Admissions experts will be invited to share insights and offer guidance. Lunch will be served.