



## **College Counseling Department Sponsored Events 2016-17**

### **SEPTEMBER**

- **Senior College Night** (for Senior Families—Lawrence Street Café)  
*Thursday, September 29, 6:30pm to 8pm*  
This program will be anchored by Lauren Avalos, Associate Director of Admissions at MIT. We are excited that Lauren will share insights into what seniors (and their parents) should be prepared for during the application process and beyond. Refreshments will be served starting at 6pm.

### **OCTOBER**

- **EF College Tour Info Session** (for all Sophomore and Junior Families—Lawrence Street Café)  
*Thursday, October 6, 6:30pm to 7:30pm*  
Having met with much success for the past two years, we will once again enlist EF (Education First) to take our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to tour colleges during Spring Break and in June. 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.
- **PSAT** (for all Juniors—at school)  
*Wednesday, October 19— 8:15am to 11:30am 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.

- **FAFSA Workshop** (for Senior Families—Lawrence Street 1<sup>st</sup> Fl., Room 102)  
*Wednesday, October 19, 6:30pm to 8:30pm*  
 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 a nationally recognized expert on financial aid, scholarships and student loans, 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.
- **Affordability Workshop** (for *all* BFS Parents—Pearl Street 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl. Conference Room)  
*Thursday, October 20, 8:30am-10:00am*  
 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 Enrollment Offices, and will feature Mark Kantrowitz, 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— Lawrence Street 1<sup>st</sup> Fl., Room 102)  
*Thursday, October 20, 6:00pm-7:30pm*  
 This is a repeat of the above program—please do not attend both. Refreshments will be served.

- **CSS Profile Workshop** (for Senior Parents—Lawrence Street Conference Room)  
*Monday, October 24, 6:30pm to 8:00pm*  
The College Student Services (CSS) Profile is a form many colleges and universities require from financial aid applicants--in addition to the FAFSA form. David Levy, a nationally recognized financial aid expert, will be walking you through the CSS Profile in this workshop. Refreshments 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—Pearl Street Meeting House)  
*Wednesday, 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. Adam 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 the last two years, 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 in the Pearl Street Cafeteria.
- **Chat with the College Counselors** (for all BFS Parents not in the college process *\*up to 10<sup>th</sup> grade\**—Lawrence Street College Counseling Center)  
*Tuesday, November 29, 9:00am-10:00am*  
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, get to know you better, and help you better understand the role of college counseling at BFS. Coffee, tea, and a light breakfast will be served.

## DECEMBER

- **Junior College Night** (for Junior Families—Lawrence Street Café)  
*Monday, December 5, 6:30pm to 8pm*  
This program kicks off the junior class's 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 Grace Cheng, Director of Admissions at Wellesley College and former Associate Director of Admissions at Harvard University. Grace will provide invaluable insights into and tips on the college search and application process. Our friends at Bespoke, a boutique test prep company, will also introduce our on-campus test prep courses. The program will conclude with a Q&A session. Refreshments will be served at 6pm.
- **Intro to College Counseling and Test Prep/Study Skills Courses during IB Night** (for Sophomore Families—Lawrence Street Café)  
*Tuesday, December 13, 6:30pm*  
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. Our friends at Bespoke, with whom we partner each year, will introduce a study skills course available for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students during our brief College Counseling intro.

## JANUARY

- **Bespoke Test Prep (for Juniors) and Study Skills Course (for Sophomores) will commence this month on campus—details to follow.**

## FEBRUARY

- **Junior Case Studies and College Program** (for Junior Families—Lawrence Street Cafe)  
*Monday, February 6, 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.

## MARCH

- **EF Tours will hold college tours** (for Juniors and Sophomores) during one week of Spring Break—TBD.

## APRIL

- **College Financial Aid 101** (for all Upper School families—*Lawrence Street Café*)

*Tuesday, April 25, 6:00pm to 8pm*

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 27, 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 not in the college process *\*up to 10<sup>th</sup> grade\**—Lawrence Street College Counseling Center)

*Thursday, May 18, 6pm-7pm*

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, get to know you

better, and help you better understand the role of college counseling at BFS. Wine and cheese will be served.

## **JUNE**

- **Summer Application Workshop** (for all Rising Seniors)

*Tuesday, June 13, 10am to 1pm*

Yes, this is the first day of summer vacation, but there is nothing better than being ready and armed to take on 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; conduct a mock interview workshop, and outline what you should complete over the summer. Admissions experts will be invited to share insights and offer guidance. Lunch will be served.

- **College Tour: Philadelphia to Washington, DC** (for Rising Juniors and Seniors)

*Monday, June 19 to Friday, June 23*

Students will enjoy the first days of summer break on this organized tour of different types of colleges and universities between Philadelphia and Washington, DC—small and big; urban, suburban, and rural; private and public. 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.