



**BROOKLYN
FRIENDS
SCHOOL**

College Counseling Department Sponsored Events 2017-2018

SEPTEMBER

- **Quick Intro to College Counseling and the EF College Tour** (for Junior Families—Lawrence Street Cafe)
Tuesday, September 12, 6:30pm to 7:30pm
We will officially kick off the college counseling process with junior families in December, but want to give you a preview of what's in store. In addition, having met with much success in recent years, EF (Education First) will, once again, take our 11th 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. We are excited to report that, for the first time, financial aid is available, and we strongly encourage all juniors to go on this tour. Tour details will be provided, followed by a Q&A session. Refreshments will be provided.
- **Senior College Night** (for Senior Families—Lawrence Street Cafe)
Thursday, September 28, 6:30pm to 8pm
Now that you are knee deep in the college process, what else do you need to know? Insights into what seniors (and their parents) should be prepared for during the application process and beyond will be shared. The program will be presented by Jonathan Williams, NYU's Associate Dean and Director of Admissions. Jonathan is a veteran admissions expert who is familiar with what you are going through and the latest admissions trends. Refreshments will be served starting at 6pm.

OCTOBER

- **PSAT** (for all Juniors—at school)
Wednesday, October 11— 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. Please note that the “P” in the name of the test denotes *practice*. There is nothing students need to prepare or bring.
- **FAFSA Workshop** (for Senior Families—Lawrence Street Conference Room)
Wednesday, October 18, 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 3rd Fl. Conference Room)
Thursday, October 19, 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 Conference Room)

Thursday, October 19, 6:30pm-8:00pm

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 23, 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.

- **Myth Busters: The Truth Behind Standardized Testing (and how to keep your sanity—and dignity) with testing guru Adam Ingersol** (for all US Families— Lawrence Street Cafe)

Wednesday, October 25, 6:30pm to 8pm

What should I know about the 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. BFS parents and students have dubbed Adam the test prep “rock star”. We are thrilled to have Adam conduct this program again. Refreshments will be served at 6:00pm.

NOVEMBER

- **Chat with the College Counselors** (for all BFS Parents not in the college process **pre-K to 10th grade**—Lawrence Street College Counseling Center)

Wednesday, November 29, 8:30am-9:30am

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 Cafe)
Monday, December 4, 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 Cafe)
Tuesday, December 5, 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 10th 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 5, 5:00pm to 9pm—5pm dinner, 6pm program starts

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) during one week of Spring Break—TBD.

APRIL

- **College Financial Aid 101** (for all Upper School families—*At Packer Collegiate Institute*)

Tuesday, April 24, 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.

MAY

- **Brooklyn and Staten Island Independent School College Fair** (for all Juniors)

Thursday, May 3, 12:30pm to 3:00pm 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.

- **Chat with the College Counselors** (for all BFS parents not in the college process **pre-K to 10th grade**—Lawrence Street College Counseling Center)

Thursday, May 17, 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 12, 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 share insights and offer guidance. Lunch will be served.

- **College Tour: TBD**