

College Counseling Department Sponsored Events
2018-2019

SEPTEMBER

- **Senior College Night** (for senior families in the Lawrence St. Cafe)
Monday, September 17, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
This program will be anchored by Ronné Patrick Turner, Vice Provost for Admissions & Financial Aid at Washington University in St. Louis. We are excited that Ronné 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

- **PSAT** (for all juniors)
Wednesday, October 10— 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.
- **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 10, 6:00pm 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 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. BFS parents and students have 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 Lawrence Street Cafe.

- **FAFSA Workshop** (for senior families—Lawrence Street Room 102)
Wednesday, October 17, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
 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 18, 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 Business 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 18, 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)
Tuesday, October 30, 6:00pm to 7:30pm
 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

- **Chat with the College Counselors** (for all BFS parents—Lawrence Street College Counseling Center)
Wednesday, November 28, 8:30am-9:30am
The college counselors want to get to know you better, and for you to get to know us and our programs. 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—Lawrence Street Cafe)
Monday, December 3, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
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 NYU's Director of Admissions, Jonathan Williams. Jonathan will provide invaluable insights and tips, and we will also 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)
Date: TBD

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 10th and 11th 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 10th grade students during our brief College Counseling intro.

JANUARY

Bespoke SAT/ACT Test Prep courses commence at BFS
Dates: TBD

FEBRUARY

- **Junior Case Studies and College Program** (for Junior Families—
Lawrence Street Cafe)
Monday, February 11, 5:00pm 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

College tour options TBD.

APRIL

- **College Financial Aid 101** (for all Upper School families)
Wednesday, April 24, 6:30pm to 8pm
at Saint Ann’s School, 129 Pierrepoint Street
This is a program we co-host with Packer Collegiate and Saint Ann’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 2, 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.

- **Chat with the College Counselors** (for all BFS parents—Lawrence Street College Counseling Center)

Date: TBD, 6pm-7pm

The college counselors want to get to know you better, and for you to get to know us and our programs. 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 11, 10am to 1pm

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. Admissions experts will lend insights and share expert advice, conduct mock-interview workshops, discuss effective essay topics and strategies for essay writing, and, along with English teachers, conduct an essay writing clinic. Each student will be able to create an outline of what they should complete over the summer. Lunch will be served.