

College Counseling Sponsored Events 2019-2020

SEPTEMBER

- **Senior College Night**

(For Senior Families--Lawrence St. Cafe)

Monday, September 16, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

This program will be led by admissions veteran Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Admissions at Duke University. Christoph will share insights and guidance on how seniors and parents can stay on target with the application process while balancing the process of students leaving home/parents letting go, and how to prepare for success (and bumps in the road) in college and beyond. **Seniors are required to attend**, and parents are strongly encouraged to be there. Refreshments will be served at 6pm. Program promptly begins at 6:30pm.

- **College Counseling Speaker Series--Presenting Ron Lieber**

(For ALL BFS Families--Pearl Street Meeting House)

Thursday, September 19, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

An evening with Ron Lieber, NYTimes Your Money columnist and BFS parent, who will share the first work-in-progress talk from his forthcoming book, "[What to Pay for College](#)." The book is all about who pays what and why, how the financial aid and discounting system has changed and when, if ever, any of us should spend \$200,000 more than we might for a SUNY undergraduate education.

OCTOBER

- **FAFSA Workshop**

(For Senior Families--Lawrence St. Room 102)

Monday, October 7, 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. He is also the author of various publications including [*Filing the FAFSA \(2015-2016 Edition\)*](#), which he co-authored with David Levy. 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. Due to the amount of information that will be covered, please arrive promptly at 6pm. Refreshments will be served.

- **SAT @ BFS**

(For interested *Seniors Only*)

Wednesday, October 16, during the school day

This is our first time offering school day SAT at BFS for BFS seniors only. All interested seniors should register, as per usual, through the College Board website. Those taking the exam should report to school prepared for the exam, and those not taking the test must attend school as per usual.

- **PSAT @ BFS**

(For all Juniors)

Wednesday, October 16, 8:30am 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.

- **CSS Profile Workshop**

(For Senior Families--Lawrence St. Conference Room)

Thursday, October 17, 6:00pm to 7:30pm

The College Student Services (CSS) Profile is a form many colleges and universities require for 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 live tele-conference workshop. Along with our FAFSA workshop leader, Mark Kantrowitz, David co-authored [*Filing the FAFSA \(2015-2016 Edition\)*](#).

- **Westtown Multicultural Conference & College Fair**

(For all interested Upper School Families)

Saturday, October 19, 6:30am to 6pm

This is a much anticipated conference and college fair that takes place every other year. We will hire a bus to travel to and from Westtown together. Families are also welcome to use their own transportation. Registration and further information will be shared closer to the date with upper school families. To learn more about the event, the line up, and the colleges represented, please [click here](#).

- **Myth Busters: The Truth Behind Standardized Testing (ad how to keep your sanity--and dignity) with testing guru Adam Ingersol**

(For all Upper School Families--Lawrence St. Cafe)

Tuesday, October 22, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

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 a lot 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, and the program will promptly commence at 6:30pm.

NOVEMBER

- **Chat with the College Counselors and Friends**

(For BFS parents--PreK to 10th grades, *not in the college process*--Lawrence Street College Counseling Center)

Wednesday, November 20, 8:30am to 9:30am

The college counselors want to get to know you better, and for you to get to know them. While they spend the bulk of their time with students in the college process, they strongly feel that all parents in our community should have structured time with them. During this chat, they will share some current trends and have related experts join in the informal discussion. Coffee, tea, and pastries will be served.

DECEMBER

- **Junior College Night**

(For Junior Families--Lawrence St. Cafe)

Tuesday, December 3, 6:00pm to 8:00pm

This program kicks off the junior class' entry into the college process. Our speaker will be admissions expert, Jonathan Williams, Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions at NYU. Jonathan will go over the nuts and bolts of the college search and application process for students and parents, with an emphasis on how to be intentional in maximizing a happy and healthy approach to school, life outside of school, and preparing for college and beyond. In addition to providing invaluable insights and tips, Jonathan will also address your questions. Our friends at Bespoke, a boutique test prep company, will also introduce our on campus test prep courses and share tips on what to do with your PSAT results and which standardized test to prep for. **Juniors are required to attend**, and parents are strongly encouraged to be there. Refreshments will be served at 6pm. Program promptly begins at 6:30pm.

- **College Beyond the States: A Look at International Schools**

(For Upper School families @ Berkeley Carroll School)

Wednesday, December 11, 6:30pm

This program is part of a series of joint programming we have with Brooklyn peer schools. Given the growing selectivity and cost of colleges and universities, it's important to explore more options. Experts will be on hand to discuss college options outside of the United States.

JANUARY

- **USA Gap Year Fair**

(For Middle School and Upper School families--Lawrence St. Cafe)

Tuesday, January 7, 6:00pm

BFS hosts this joint program in conjunction with our Brooklyn peer schools. If you are curious about taking a Gap Year, or wonder what the buzz and the benefits are please come check out this event. Holly Bull, President of [Center for Interim Programs](#), and a recognized expert on everything gap year, will share insights and address questions. The evening will conclude with approximately 50 different gap year programs represented at the fair--a great place to learn more and get more information.

- Bespoke SAT/ACT Test Prep for 11th grade students and 10th grade courses commence at BFS.
Dates: TBD.

FEBRUARY

- **Junior Case Studies and College Program**

(For Junior Families--Lawrence St. Cafe)

Monday, February 10, 5:00pm to 9:00pm

This evening starts with a senior panel--Friends who often have the best advice for students embarking upon the college process. In addition, 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, historic black colleges and universities (HBCU), 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. This is a **required program for all juniors** and strongly recommended for parents.

- **Studying the Arts in College**

(For Upper School families @ St. Ann's School)

Thursday, February 20, 6:30pm

This program is part of a series of joint programming we have with Brooklyn peer schools. Are you curious about pursuing art in college? What's entailed in the application process? What can you do with a college art degree? Come learn more about studying arts in college from experts in the know.

MARCH

- **Mid-Atlantic College Tour**

(For interested Sophomores and Juniors)

Sunday, March 16 to Thursday, March 19

College tours are a great way to kick off the college search process whether you are a junior or want to get a head start as a sophomore. Being part of an organized tour just for BFS students is time and cost efficient, and maximizes your campus visit experience. Limited financial aid is available for those qualified.

APRIL

- **College Financial Aid 101**

(For All Upper School Families @ Packer Collegiate)

Wednesday, April 22, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

This program is part of a series of joint programming we have with Brooklyn peer schools. For all upper school families interested in learning about the nuts and bolts of college financial aid, this is an information packed presentation. John Leach, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of University Financial Aid at Emory University will be conducting the program.

- **Exploring Women's Colleges**

(For All Upper School Families @ Berkeley Carroll School)

Sunday, April 19, 3pm

This program is part of a series of joint programming we have with Brooklyn peer schools. For all upper school families interested in learning about women's colleges, this is a session not to be missed. College officials ranging from professors to admissions experts will share insights and address questions during this presentation.

MAY

- **Brooklyn and Staten Island Independent School College Fair**

(For all Juniors--Long Island University Brooklyn Campus)

Thursday, April 30, 12:30pm to 3:30pm--during the school day

Juniors will be chaperoned to attend this much anticipated annual fair. Close to 200 colleges and universities from around the world 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.

JUNE

- **Summer Application Workshop**

(For all rising Seniors--REQUIRED-- 3rd Floor Commons)

Tuesday, June 9, 10:00am to 2:00pm

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.