

# College Compass



Premier Edition • May 2016 • Iyaar 5776  
Yeshiva of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School • Al and Sonny Gindi Campus

## Congratulations to our 2016 Seniors on their acceptances to:

American University	-College of Staten Island
Arizona State University	-Hunter College
Barnard College	Marymount Manhattan College
Baruch College (Honors, Dean's Scholars)	New York City Technical College
Binghamton University	New York Institute of Technology
Boston University	New York University
Brandeis University	Northeastern University
Brookdale Community College	Pace University
Brooklyn College (BA-MD, Scholars) City College	Parsons School of Design
College of Staten Island	Pratt Institute
Columbia University	Princeton University
Drexel University	Queens College (Scholars)
Eugene Lang College	Rutgers University
Fashion Institute of Technology	School of Visual Arts
George Washington University	Stony Brook University
Georgetown University	Suffolk University
Guttman Community College	SUNY at Albany
Hofstra University	Syracuse University
Hunter College	Technion- Israel Institute of Technology
John Jay	University of Arizona
Kingsborough Community College	University of Connecticut
Lehman College	University of Hartford
LIM College	University of Maryland
Long Island University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Lynn University	University of Miami
Macaulay Honors College at: -Baruch College	University of Michigan
-Brooklyn College	Wesleyan University
-City College	Yeshiva University

## A Note from College Guidance

Welcome to the inaugural edition of College Compass, a periodical newsletter aimed at providing updates from the College Guidance Department and the broader realm of college admissions. We encourage parents and students alike to read the articles within, where we provide practical tips for all high school students as well as up-to-date information from the ever changing landscape of higher education.

We have so much to be proud of in this issue, particularly the successes of our seniors who earned admission to over 50 different colleges and universities! We wish them all the best of luck as they transition to college and Israel next year knowing that they are well prepared to succeed in this next phase of their lives.

As the academic year comes to a close, we wish all of our students hatzlacha on final exams - you're almost there!

## At a Glance: Class of 2016

**164** seniors

were...

admitted to **56** different colleges and universities in  
America and Israel

and were...

awarded over **1 million** dollars in merit  
scholarships!

Additionally...

**38** students plan to spend a gap year studying in Israel

# Why Should YOU Visit a College Campus?

Visiting prospective colleges can be one of the most important factors when deciding where to apply to college. There is no better way to get a feel for a college than by touring the campus, visiting classes and talking to current students. Seeing the college for yourself is the best way to see if you can picture yourself there or somewhere similar for the next four years!

- Take a campus tour
- If available, schedule an interview (in advance!)
- Attend an information session
- Sit in on a class
- Eat in the cafeteria
- Make a list of questions to ask a current student:

• Get contact information of admissions officers you meet with

Why did they choose this college?

• Visit the Hillel/Chabad

What are the classes like?

• Stay overnight if you can

What is life like on the weekends?

What do they do for fun?

## In the News: Updated FAFSA Timeline

Applying for financial aid is one of the most important parts of the college admissions process. Many families are surprised by the amount of aid they are eligible to receive. Completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the required first step for families seeking financial aid and scholarships. Traditionally, this form was filed after January 1st of senior year right after families submit their prior year's tax return. The Class of 2017 will be the first high school class to file the FAFSA on a new timeline using PPY (prior-prior year) tax data. The FAFSA will now be available October 1, 2016 rather than on January 1, 2017. The income used on the FAFSA will be from two years prior to the application year.

Having the FAFSA available earlier, students will be able to complete their federal aid applications in the same time frame as their college admissions applications, streamlining the college application process. This will also ease the process of filling out the forms, since families will have their PPY tax information readily available. Learning about their federal aid eligibility earlier will allow students and families to better understand each institution's cost information and make more informed decisions about which college is the best match for them.

# Alumni Spotlight: Alex Schneider '13

As a high school student, Alex had already developed a deep interest in the field of architecture. Now, Alex is a junior at the highly selective Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at City College pursuing his dream of becoming an architect. We recently checked in with Alex to learn more about his experiences in this challenging and dynamic field.

**How did you become interested in architecture?**

Architecture is something that has been interesting to me since I was old enough to understand what the word meant. My parents had put Legos in front of me when I was very young and it all stemmed from there. In between junior and senior year of high school, I took a summer course at NYIT that confirmed my understanding of what the field was and gave me experience that helped a lot when I was applying to college.

**How do you feel Flatbush prepared you for the rigors of college?**

Flatbush prepared me for the rigors of college by providing me with a strong foundation of knowledge and also taught me how to handle an intense workload. My days are much longer and the workload is much harder now.

**What are your career goals?**

After I finish this 5 year program and receive my Bachelor's degree, I am required to have 3 years of work experience before I can begin to take the licensing exams (the AREs). Once I receive my license, I will work for some years at a firm on a salary fit for a licensed architect. And then hopefully by age 40 I'll have the experience I need to start my own firm.

**Do you have any words of advice for Flatbush students?**

Test the waters and find out what interests you. Do internships and explore many fields before you decide what your interest is. When choosing a college don't base your decision at all on which school would be the most fun or which school your friends are going to. Do what is best for you and your personal situation.



## College Night Recap

On Monday, April 11th, representatives from 35 different colleges and universities joined the junior class and their parents at YOFHS for an informative and enjoyable evening. The program began with a panel of five schools, each of whom presented helpful tips about applying to college. "Make sure to keep track of individual schools' policies and deadlines," advised Marianne Booufall-Tynan, Director of Enrollment Management at Macaulay Honors College.

"Tell us about activities that have been meaningful to you, not just clubs where you attended one meeting in freshman year," stated Rachel Shandalov from Yeshiva University. Afterward, families went to the gym where they had individual conversations with the admissions reps from all 35 colleges and obtained contact information for many of the people who will be reading their applications.

This signature program allowed families to take a significant step toward finding the right college fit for each unique student.



# Your College Prep To-Do List: A Year-by-Year Review

## 9th grade

- Everything counts!
- Challenge yourself:
  - Participate in academic clubs
  - Research subjects that interest you outside the classroom
- Work hard in school
- Read!
- Get involved in the school community - join clubs, commissions, and sports that you enjoy

## 10th grade

- Build on 9th grade +
- Take PSAT and PACT seriously to see which standardized test works best with your learning and testing style
- Choose electives for junior year thoughtfully
- Get acquainted with Pathfinders
- Pay attention to and get involved in the Sophomore College Seminars run by College Guidance in your classroom

## 11th grade

- Build on 9th & 10th grades +
- SAT or ACT exams
- Identify key deadlines!
- Find a meaningful summer activity
- Form list of possible colleges
- JUNIOR COLLEGE NIGHT!
- Visit campuses
- Begin thinking about essay topics
- Ask for recommendations
- Create a resume

## 12th grade

- Build on 9th, 10th, & 11th grades +
- Finalize your list of schools
- Decide if you want to apply Early Decision or Early Action
- Prepare applications for admission and financial aid
- Follow up with recommenders
- Visit campuses
- Keep performing to your fullest!
- Deposit on May 1

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