

College Compass

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Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School • Al and Sonny Gindi Campus

Meet the College Guidance Department

Ms. Biller-Levy, Director



Rabbi Rosenblum, Counselor



Ms. Natov, Counselor



Ms. Weinstein, Counselor



Ms. Feinstein, Counselor



Ms. Kuznicki
Assistant to the Director

A Note from College Guidance

Welcome back from what we hope was a productive and enjoyable summer! Fall semester is an exciting time in College Guidance as seniors prepare their college applications, representatives from over 20 colleges visit our school, and 9-11th graders prepare for the PSAT/pre-ACT. To the juniors and seniors who are taking on their most challenging course load to date, we wish you all much success.

Our colleagues in College Admissions always say, "Everything counts!" Please keep that fact in mind since the effort you put into your classes now will pay off later, the time you put into investing in extra-curricular activities will enrich your daily high school experience and the relationships that you form here will last a lifetime.

We encourage you to peruse this edition of the College Compass to gain insight into what's ahead for all of you, no matter what grade you are in. As always, we welcome you to stop by our office for more information. We wish each of you and your families a Shana Tova; a meaningful year ahead filled with success and joy.

In the News: Social Media's Increasing Role in Admissions

Your friends may not be the only ones looking at your Instagram...

As social media grows in popularity more and more admissions offices are utilizing its power. What is surprising is that admissions officers actually said that social media positively impacted their impressions of applicants more often than not. Positive things that admissions officers saw? Awards won, community involvement, and even linkedin profiles. Maintaining a positive online presence can demonstrate savvy and maturity to those who are looking for a different perspective on an applicant.



A negative online presence can have real consequences

In the Spring of 2017 several of Harvard's accepted students had their admission offers revoked because of things they had posted on social media. The students shared offensive memes in a private group chat. Harvard admissions became aware and revoked admissions offers to the students who were members of the group chat. While this is an extreme example of the consequences of social media, admissions officers have reported that when they look at a student's online presence they are left with a bad impression of the student 42% of the time. The biggest offenders? Foul language and out of context song lyrics.

Using social media to your advantage

Many admissions officers say that they don't want to use social media to make decisions, and leave that as a space for teens to be teens. But it is best to err on the side of caution with an online presence. Students should google themselves to ensure that if anything comes up it's positive. Students should set accounts to private (yes, even Snapchat and Twitter). Don't be afraid to join a Facebook group or follow the Instagram of the admissions office for a more candid look at student life. There are many reasons students should be mindful and considerate when posting to social media; don't forget that one of them is colleges may be watching.

College Guidance at the NACAC Conference

Ms. Natov and Ms. Weinstein attended the 2017 National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) conference in Boston. This annual event draws around 8,000 college admissions professionals and high school guidance counselors from around the country.

Ms. Natov and Ms. Weinstein attended informative presentations on relevant industry trends and networked with admissions directors and officers from a wide range of institutions. They are excited to bring their newfound knowledge and expertise back to the Flatbush community!



Ms. Weinstein & Ms. Natov network with the Barnard admissions department

Summer Experience: Mary Jajati

Senior Mary Jajati devoted seven weeks this summer to learning all about coding. She participated in the selective “Girls Who Code” program where she learned the ins and outs of computer programming and app development. From commuting to making new friends and building relationships with mentors, Mary’s summer was certainly a memorable and enriching one!

Please briefly describe the “Girls Who Code Program” and what inspired you to apply.

Girls Who Code is a selective and free summer immersion program for girls interested in computer science and technology. Throughout the 7 week program, there are field trips, college information sessions, and mentorship opportunities. Web and mobile app development, robotics, and computer programming are some of the key things I learned.

I applied because a fellow classmate had participated the previous summer and she recommended it. Also, many excellent jobs are opening up in the tech industry so I wanted to invest in my future and learn key skills while still having fun.

What was the biggest challenge? What did the experience teach you?

One challenge was figuring out how to debug the programs I wrote. Many times I found myself with dozens of errors and no clue how to fix them. However, with this struggle came the opportunity to learn to solve my errors on my own. I became very skilled at scouring the unlimited resources on the web to solve my particular errors. I learned to be independent and complete full projects on my own, but at the same time learned to collaborate with people from different backgrounds.

What was your favorite part?

My favorite part was meeting my classmates and making valuable friendships with people who I never would have had the pleasure of meeting if it weren’t for the program. Also, learning from teachers who were very close to my age was a real pleasure.

To learn more about “Girls Who Code”, visit: <https://girlswhocode.com/summer-immersion-programs/>

College Representatives come to Flatbush

Not only do our students visit colleges, colleges come visit the Yeshivah of Flatbush!

This fall, college admissions representatives from over 20 colleges are meeting with seniors and running information sessions discussing the college’s academic offerings, student life, and admissions process. Our students have the chance to learn more about their prospective schools and ask questions.



Assistant Director of Admissions at Johns Hopkins University with Flatbush students

The college rep who visits is often the same person who reads Flatbush applications so it’s a great opportunity to make the process more personalized.

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

Upcoming Standardized Testing

Diagnostic Testing

PSAT:
9th - 11th Grade:
October 25, 2017

Standardized Testing for College Admission

SAT I & Subject Tests
October 15, 2017
November 5, 2017
December 3, 2017
March 11, 2018
May 6, 2018
June 3, 2018

ACT
October 29, 2017
December 10, 2017
February 12, 2017*
April 15, 2018
June 10, 2018

*No NY test centers

Key College Guidance Events

"Financing College"
presentation with
Mr. Bob Friedman
September 18, 2017

Tuesday Application
Help Center for Seniors
1st Lunch in Room 205

Parent Teacher Conferences
(CG available to talk)
November 15 & 20, 2017

Junior College Kickoff Night
December 6, 2017

Junior College Night &
College Fair
May 2, 2018

Sophomore College
Information Night
May 9, 2018



College Admissions Officers Visiting YOF

Princeton University
University of Pennsylvania
Macaulay Honors College of CUNY
State University of New York at Albany
Drexel University
Pace University
Boston University
Columbia University
Northeastern University
Johns Hopkins University
New York University
Yeshiva University
The Cooper Union
University of Maryland
Hofstra University
University of Connecticut
Fashion Institute of Technology
Barnard College
Rutgers University
Marymount Manhattan College
Syracuse University
LIM College (Laboratory Institute of Merchandising)

Seniors: Check for new additions and register in advance on Naviance!

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