



A Message from the Head of School Christopher Marblo

High school placement is the culmination of the Town experience. Students are prepared, on all levels, to make the transition to a new school and build on the excellent foundation they have received at Town.

We know this because we formally track the progress and success of our students in high school. The feedback has been consistent – Town graduates are well respected, as both students and people. They are smart and capable, grounded and resilient, confident and curious. Taking what they have been given at Town to new heights is the story of what our students do after they graduate from Town.

In order to ensure that the transition to high school serves our students in optimal ways, we have developed a thorough, supportive, and highly effective placement process. This process begins in April of 7th grade, with an introduction to the different types of high schools and an overview of the placement process. In June, the Head of Upper School meets with every parent and child to compile a list of 8-10 schools for the family to explore during the summer. In September this list is narrowed down to 4 – 6 schools that best match the student’s strengths and interests.

In the fall students take “Decisions” class, which exposes them to all aspects of the placement process, from what to wear to interviews to how to research a school. Mock interviews are held with Town faculty and staff, teaching students how to best prepare for and present themselves during the admissions process. As students visit schools, Town works closely with each family to ensure that applications are completed in a timely and effective manner. Once decisions from the high schools come in, Town helps students assess their choices. The placement process comes to an end in March, when students select the school that is best for them. Throughout the entire process a series of meetings with and emails to parents keeps them fully informed of the process and allows them to ask questions and seek guidance.

A parent of a recent graduate captures the essence of the Town experience: *I always knew that Town was the right school for my daughter. I always knew she would be recognized and appreciated for who she is as an individual. I always knew the remarkable faculty would bestow their expertise, guidance, patience, humor, and genuine care upon her. And I always knew that Town would offer her the opportunities to be appropriately challenged and achieve her potential in a warm, nurturing manner. What I could not have imagined is the sum of these parts. I see a young woman who is poised, confident, intelligent, responsible, compassionate, and empowered to take all that she has learned at Town to new heights.*

The journey for each child is one of learning, discovery, and joy. The destination is about children finding themselves, their strengths, their interests, and their individuality.



“Taking what they have been given at Town to new heights is the story of what our students do after they graduate from Town.”

Michael M. White ‘07

A young man with a vision and purpose, Town provided Michael with an educational platform that allowed him the opportunity to develop his existing gifts, talents and abilities, and strengthen his academic, social and leadership skills. As he prepares to enter his senior year at the Salisbury School, a prep school in Connecticut, Michael believes his experience at Town helped pave the way for his achievements to date.

Beginning at Town in September 1998, Michael travelled from Brooklyn each morning with an eagerness and yearning to embrace the day-to-day activities that lay ahead. The school’s curriculum, philosophy and overall culture became quite infectious. Although the daily commute was quite a laborious task, having made Town our school of choice, the daily trip seemed effortless.

While there are many positive aspects of his Town experience, what was most significant was Town’s ability to allow its students the opportunity to develop as individuals and to allow each child to experience and explore opportunities in areas such as leadership, the arts and sports. At Town, Michael was a member of the Upper School Senate, leader of the Upper School Student Diversity Committee and captured the lead role in his 8th grade production of *The Music Man*. As a result of the opportunities Town afforded him, Michael continues to blossom.

In March of 2009, Michael was nominated by Salisbury’s faculty team to represent the school at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.; an experience that exposed him to the day-to-day operations of the U.S. Senate and gave him an opportunity to play President for the day! Back at Salisbury, Michael completed a third term on the school’s Honor’s Committee, chaired by the Headmaster, where decisions are made regarding disciplinary actions for student infractions.

Outside of Town, Michael clearly understands the principle of serving others. He was an active member of his former community where he assisted in several Educational Task Force projects and book drives for the public school community. In addition, Michael serves on the Youth Council board of the Boys Club of New York, and is also a student mentor and orientation spokesperson. Earlier this month, the Boys Club awarded Michael the Ramon Santiago Memorial Award, an award that recognizes a Boys Club member who best exemplifies the values and principles that distinguish a person of great character.

Michael’s love for the game of baseball (he has already received numerous letters from colleges and major league baseball teams) continues to shine. Last August he was invited to participate in a summer rivalry classics game hosted by the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston. This opportunity, followed by a full day workout at Yankee Stadium, was like a dream come true. This past spring, Michael and his Salisbury teammates captured the championship title in the New England region and ranked 15th in the United States. Michael is truly living his dreams.

During his acceptance speech earlier this month at the Boys Club, Michael shared the following quote from the late Benjamin E. Mays: “The tragedy does not lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in not having any goals to reach”.

Thank you, Town, for paving the road to what has been an incredible experience for Michael. - Gwen Harewood

Fiona Tessitore ‘07

When do you really know you’ve made the “right” school choice for your five-year old child? We knew we wanted a co-educational environment -- which reflects the world in which we all live -- so that eliminated the all-girl schools. We knew from a very early age that our daughter, Fiona, was a thoughtful and sensitive person. So the decision boiled down to a K through 12 or an Elementary program, such as The Town School, focused exclusively on the early years of a child’s educational development. We chose Town because we believed it would be the most nurturing environment for our daughter.

There were early indications we’d made a good choice when every day, without fail, Fiona would lead us by the hand down 76th Street, eager to join her classmates and teachers for the start of another learning adventure. However, if there was one crystallizing moment

where we knew beyond a shadow of doubt we made the right choice, it was the day of Fiona’s first student/parent/teacher conference in Fourth grade. During the early years, teachers would often comment on Fiona’s insightfulness and her command of the subject matter, but a common refrain was “we wish she would participate and share her thinking more during class discussions.” We sat there and listened as Fiona’s teachers gently encouraged and coaxed her - in words that so closely mirrored those we used at home - to take a chance and let her voice be heard. That meeting was a real catalyst for Fiona, and over the years our daughter blossomed into a respected leader representing her classmates in the School Senate and becoming an influencer in her classroom during the mock Galileo Trials and the Shakespeare debate.



And if there ever was a day when we as parents would truly marvel at the journey our five-year-old daughter embarked on, it was the day we watched a confident and poised young woman rise from her seat, stride to the podium, and deliver one of the farewell commencement addresses to The Town School community during All School Graduation.

How did The Town School prepare its students for the classroom rigors of high school? Today, Fiona is getting ready for her senior year in high school at a school she chose and loves. She has been voted Editor of Yearbook and works as a Teacher’s Assistant in the Computer Science Department at Dalton for their Middle School Robotics Program. She spent two weeks in Paris working on her French in a student exchange program and won a Best Delegate Award at Model UN. She is also a member of Dalton’s S.M.A.R.T. Team (Students Modeling a Research Topic). This spring the team presented their research on proteins at a symposium at Rockefeller University.

Fiona’s affiliation with The Town School is far from over. This summer Fiona will be returning as a Teaching Intern for Breakthrough, a program designed to help promising public school students prepare for private school and New York City’s competitive public school programs. Fiona has begun her college search and is leaning strongly towards a career in education. Her dream is to open a Charter School! It all began at The Town School! - Maria Canale and Aristide Tessitore

Michelangelo X Ball Van Zee ‘06

Michelangelo’s 10 years at Town prepared him very well for high school. His wonderful Town language instructors in French and Latin gave him a strong foundation for his subsequent studies at Dalton High School. Michelangelo graduated from there fluent in Spanish, French, and Chinese. In the summer immediately after graduating Town, Michelangelo was fully prepared to attend Les Glénans, a sailing school in France with instruction solely in French. He has since participated in community service, exchange, and language instruction programs in Paris, Beijing, Shanghai, and Ecuador. In the summer of 2008, Michelangelo was awarded a full U.S. State Department scholarship to live and study in Beijing for seven weeks. He returned to China that fall with another advanced Mandarin student and their Dalton teacher to continue his studies with a group of students from Singapore. In 2010, he traveled to India to participate with a select group of Dalton students in the International Math Circle. For his Senior Project, Michelangelo spent a month in Cairo studying Arabic, his most recent language pursuit, while teaching at an elementary school there. He has also traveled to Italy, Spain, Belgium, Holland, Canada, and Mexico, and in every country visited, he has shown a remarkable ability to quickly pick up the local language.

Town not only nurtured Michelangelo’s language abilities. In high school he excelled in all other academic disciplines – Science, History, Math, English, Art – again no doubt due to the superb academic grounding provided by his Town teachers. In fact, during the two-year World History sequence in high school, he often stated that it was “all review” since he had learned the material during Upper School at Town! Michelangelo will attend Princeton University this coming fall. He also achieved admission to several top colleges, including Brown, Amherst, Pomona, Middlebury, and Bowdoin. In the course of applying, Michelangelo took an unusually high number of standardized tests – the regular SAT and 8 subject (SAT II) exams – and his score average was over 790 (with marks of 800 on 6 of those tests). Michelangelo achieved those scores without utilizing tutors or preparation classes. He also did extraordinarily well on the PSAT, and is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. This pattern of test excellence was initiated and nurtured at Town. For high school admission, Michelangelo took only The Town School ISEE test preparation classes (taught by Town faculty), yet he had stanine 9 scores (the top category) on all the test sections. Bravo, Town! - Kimberly J. Van Zee and Barry X Ball



Choosing A School That Ends in Eighth Grade

❖ **By Eighth grade, you will know your child as a learner.** In the elementary years, your child’s academic strengths, interests, learning styles and gifts become defined. By the time your child is 13, the best “match” for high school will be easier to determine.

❖ **As an Eighth grader, your child will be involved in choosing the high school.** During the early childhood years you, as parents, must make the school decisions. A family choice, involving your Eighth grader with the support of the school, is a satisfying and personalized way to choose a high school.

❖ **Children often need a change.** Nine years is a long time to be in one school and children are ready for a change of venue, new friends and new challenges. According to the statistics, few students begin in Kindergarten and graduate as seniors from the same school. Because Town ends in Eighth grade, all of the students leave together offering support to one another. At Ninth grade children are eager to experience new friendships and another environment that supports their interests before college.

❖ **Your child will have early leadership and activity opportunities.** Older students at Town serve on the student senate, publish their own yearbook, become part of interscholastic athletic teams beginning in Fifth grade, sing in the school chorus, conduct school-wide student service activities, serve as buddies to the younger students and assume the mantle of leadership and act as role models for the entire student body.

❖ **The school Placement Office works in partnership with you and your child to find a high school “match” that recognizes your child’s unique gifts and achievements.** Beginning in the spring of Seventh grade, parents meet with the placement team and receive a checklist and timeline. Individualized meetings with families, as well as an Eighth grade Decisions Course for students, are part of a well designed, personalized placement process to support you and your child. Town students are sought after by high schools because they are well-prepared, self-assured, self-confident and well-rounded students, often becoming leaders in high school.

❖ **The elementary school familial environment allows students to experience age appropriate activities and events, without the influence and pressure of older students.** Seventh and Eighth graders are not “caught in the middle” but take on the role of “seniors”. At the same time they can be themselves, often remaining “younger” a bit longer. Our facilities are age appropriate and reserved for the use of all of our students. Our teachers are cognizant of developmental levels and committed to the elementary years.

❖ **The “Town Connection” continues throughout life.** Our graduates maintain the close friendships they acquired during their years at Town. The Office of Alumni/ae Relations reaches out to students throughout their high school and college years and beyond.

Reflecting the diversity and individuality of our graduates, Town students have attended the following high schools in recent years: Birch Wathen, Blair Academy, Brearley, Bronx Science, Browning, Chapin, Choate Rosemary Hall, Columbia Prep, Concord Academy, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Dalton, Eaglebrook, Emma Willard, Ethel Walker, Fieldston, Friends Seminary, Groton, Gunner, Hackley, Hewitt, Hill, Hopkins, Horace Mann, Hotchkiss, Kent, Landmark, Little Red/Elisabeth Irwin, Loomis, Masters, Milton Academy, Miss Porter’s, Nightingale, Packer Collegiate, Poly Prep, Professional Children’s School, Riverdale, St. Ann’s, Salisbury, Spence, Stuyvesant, Taft, Trevor Day, Trinity, Westminster, York Prep.

Graduates 2010

8th Grade High School Destinations

Stephanie Alexander Beacon High School
 William Alexander Bronx Science High School
 Juliet Bader Packer Collegiate Institute
 Soleil Ball Van Zee The Dalton School
 Walker Brown-Adams The Spence School
 Poulomi Das LaGuardia School for the Arts
 Luke Dechiaro Columbia Prep
 Xander Fong Trinity
 Matthew Frater The Hotchkiss School
 Allegra Freund Horace Mann
 Gregory Giordano Trinity
 Jennifer Goodell The Riverdale Country School
 William Gottsegen Trinity
 Myles Green School of the Future
 Rebecca Houedjssi The Spence School
 Eheneden Idehen-Amadasun Trinity
 Tristan Kaufman Poly Prep
 Rebecca Klafner The Spence School
 Aloxa Krieger Trevor Day
 Marie-Charlotte Ladenius Clark The Calhoun School
 Daniel Levin The Riverdale Country School
 Joshua McCartney Friends Seminary
 Aaron McIntyre The Riverdale Country School
 Ashna Mehta Columbia Prep
 Jonathan Morales Columbia Prep
 Aisha Nelson Choate Rosemary Hall
 Jasmin Nunes Columbia Prep
 Marcus Plenty Horace Mann
 Jonathan Porter Poly Prep
 Samantha Rettig The Chapin School
 Helena Shannon The Spence School
 Serena Silver Ethical Culture Fieldston
 Danielle Tanzman Columbia Prep
 Benjamin Vanden Heuvel Stuyvesant School
 Lexy Velasquez Trevor Day
 Andrew Verbinen Horace Mann

12th Grade College Destinations

Amy Alpert Brandeis University
 Shonte Amato-Grill New York University
 Peter Asimov Brown University
 Michelangelo Ball Van Zee Princeton University
 Myles Barkoff University of Michigan
 Anne Benda Northwestern University
 Alexander Blume University of Pennsylvania
 Martin Carela Bard College
 Kim Clancy University of Puget Sound
 Eric Feldman Northwestern University
 Helen Fernandez Colorado College
 Sarah Fernandez Dartmouth College
 Andrew Heuman-Gutman Emory University
 Skylar Kalin Emory University
 Vittoria Kamen University of Miami
 Dana Kaufman Franklin & Marshall University
 Sinead Keirans Middlebury College
 Malena Keys Reed College
 Jonathan Kohana Emory University
 Nicholas Kohana George Washington University
 Gregory Lipay Boston University
 Charlotte Marks Bucknell University
 Amanda Munch Bard College
 Phoebe Papademetriou Connecticut College
 Samantha Paprin Chapman University
 Nina Perlman Maryland Institute College of Art
 Steven Rachmuth Brandeis University
 Benjamin Reid Pitzer College
 Ashley Rodriguez St. Johns University
 not available
 Jessica Schiff Duke University
 Matthew Schorr Brown University
 Benjamin Silberstein Brown University
 Brian Smith University of Maryland
 Erika Steinberger Oberlin College
 Alison Stuart Cornell University
 Jake Teperman Cornell University
 Bethany Weitzman Colby College

Graduates 2009

8th Grade High School Destinations

Benjamin Abernathy Poly Prep
 Emily Balber Columbia Prep
 William Beasley Salisbury School
 Evander Biondi-Copeland Poly Prep
 Bernard Birnbaum Stuyvesant School
 Alexander Blume Columbia Prep
 Jessica Bonaventura Columbia Prep
 Brian Brown Columbia Prep
 Isabella Chirico Packer Collegiate Institute
 Soumyajit Das Bronx Science High School
 Sarah de Ugarte St. Ann's
 Jack Dubinsky Browning
 Denis Fedin Collegiate
 Anna Fernandez Ethical Culture/Fieldston
 Alexander Gillah Friends Seminary
 Sophie Krieger The Riverdale Country School
 Rebecca Lederkramer Brooklyn Friends School
 Chase Lerner The Dwight School
 Julia Levenson Columbia Prep
 Robert Levine Poly Prep
 William Mauro Horace Mann
 Christine McBride Trinity
 Josephine Messing The Birch Wathen Lenox School
 Anna Miller Columbia Prep
 Jacob Moszkowski Columbia Prep
 Liana Pavane Columbia Prep
 Julia Pottel Packer Collegiate Institute
 Alexander Rubin Trinity
 Allison Saferstein Dwight Englewood School
 Phillip Safran The Riverdale Country School
 Evan Schweitzer Columbia Prep
 Nikita Sogoloff Trinity
 Aristide Tessitore The Dalton School
 Lauren Toppeta Nightingale-Bamford
 Tonio Vassilaros Columbia Prep
 Audrey Weber Nightingale Bamford
 Vida Weisblum Ethical Culture/Fieldston
 Alexander Weisman The Riverdale Country School
 Natanae Williams Columbia Prep
 Elizabeth Winte Trinity

12th Grade College Destinations

Jasmine Adams Rider University
 Spencer Barkoff Emory University
 Christopher Bonaventura Vanderbilt University
 Hillary Cochran University of Delaware
 Janel Coleman George Washington University
 Matthew Crowley University of Michigan
 Karoline Dubin Muhlenberg College
 Steven Feldman Bowdoin College
 Shane Gaer The Riverdale Country School
 Roland Gillah Friends Seminary
 Justin Gillston Horace Mann
 Julia Giordano Trevor Day
 Tori Goodell The Riverdale Country School
 Sarah Grufferman Marymount School
 Dylan Herman Talent Unlimited High School/Drama
 Dakota Homsey Hewitt
 Hailey Mack Columbia Prep
 Ty Matsunaga The American School in Japan
 Briar McQuillin The Chapin School
 Qadeer Morgan Salisbury School
 William Nathanson Columbia Prep
 Darcie Reisler The Spence School
 Kacie Richman Columbia Prep
 Ben Roffer Columbia Prep
 Alex Roseman Columbia Prep
 Allison Ruben The Spence School
 Meredith Ruskin Horace Mann
 Stephanie Schiff The Dwight School
 Alexandra Schleider Trinity
 Colette Silver Fieldston
 Nicholas Smith Friends Seminary
 Kiara Toscano Frank Sinatra School/Performing Arts
 Derek Walker Brooklyn Friends School
 Chanae Williams The Dalton School
 Eric Wimer Fieldston
 Sophia Zweig Bronx Science

Graduates 2008

8th Grade High School Destinations

Jake Axelrod Fieldston
 Anna Brenner Trinity
 Andrew Busch Dwight-Englewood School
 Nathaniel Cheong LaGuardia School for the Arts
 Nia-N'Shae Collins Ethel Walker School
 Lauren Feld Columbia Prep
 Isabel Feldman The Dalton School
 Steven Feldman Columbia Prep
 Shane Gaer The Riverdale Country School
 Roland Gillah Friends Seminary
 Justin Gillston Horace Mann
 Julia Giordano Trevor Day
 Tori Goodell The Riverdale Country School
 Sarah Grufferman Marymount School
 Dylan Herman Talent Unlimited High School/Drama
 Dakota Homsey Hewitt
 Hailey Mack Columbia Prep
 Ty Matsunaga The American School in Japan
 Briar McQuillin The Chapin School
 Qadeer Morgan Salisbury School
 William Nathanson Columbia Prep
 Darcie Reisler The Spence School
 Kacie Richman Columbia Prep
 Ben Roffer Columbia Prep
 Alex Roseman Columbia Prep
 Allison Ruben The Spence School
 Meredith Ruskin Horace Mann
 Stephanie Schiff The Dwight School
 Alexandra Schleider Trinity
 Colette Silver Fieldston
 Nicholas Smith Friends Seminary
 Kiara Toscano Frank Sinatra School/Performing Arts
 Derek Walker Brooklyn Friends School
 Chanae Williams The Dalton School
 Eric Wimer Fieldston
 Sophia Zweig Bronx Science

12th Grade College Destinations

Joshua Abrams Bard College
 Eduardo Andino Yale University
 David Balk George Washington University
 Nicholas Berry Vassar College
 Alexander Bolano Princeton University
 Samantha Braun University of Pennsylvania
 Katherine Busch Stanford University
 Kathleen Carter Middlebury College
 Kelsey Cohen Connecticut College
 Joshua Cranin Bowdoin College
 Seta Degann Indiana University
 Leah Dreyfuss Johns Hopkins University
 Marissa Glauberman George Washington University
 Miranda Gonzalez Northwestern University
 T. Powell Hedley University of Michigan
 David Kaiser Cornell University
 Alison Karasyk Oberlin College
 David Marblo SUNY Purchase
 Brian Mathews Utah Valley University
 Laura Milmed Emory University
 Alejandro Montoya Vassar College
 Emily Morrison SUNY New Paltz
 James Munch George Washington University
 Chidinma Ofoamah University of Arizona
 Kushal Patel Trinity College
 Francisco Perez Allegheny College
 Daniel Perlman Northwestern University
 Neal Poole Brown University
 Diana Posner Southern Methodist University
 Jonah Rifkin University of Rochester
 William Rifkin Tufts University
 Theodore Rostow Carleton College
 Andrew Ruben Vanderbilt University
 Rachel Ruskin Yale University
 Nicole Savitsky University of Michigan
 Jessica Schleider Swarthmore College
 Hilary Shar New York University-Tisch
 Andrew Weitzman University of Virginia

The Town School

After Town:
 Continuing to Lead
 Alumni/ae Achievements