



Math, Engineering, and Science Academy (MESA) Charter High School

231 Palmetto Street
Brooklyn, NY 11221
(p) (718) 282-7426
(f) (718) 919-1479
www.mesacharter.org

College Counselor

- Are you a **passionate**, and **talented** College Counselor?
- Are you committed to helping students find the right **college or career** path?
- Do you love working in **urban schools**?
- Do you want to work in a school where counselors are valued for **their ability to help students pursue their own dreams**, and not for the statistics they produce?
- Are you looking for a high school culture that strikes the **perfect balance** of **structure** and **freedom**, where **academic rigor** drives all other aspects of school life, and where **positive reinforcement** for hard work and effort is the norm?
- Do you constantly strive to improve your craft through **coaching**, incorporation of data, and whatever other resources you can find?
- Do you thrive in the company of **equally committed, driven, and gifted educators**?

MESA Charter High School might be the right place for you!

Math, Engineering, and Science Academy (MESA) Charter High School is a community high school in Bushwick, Brooklyn. We opened our doors on August 19, 2013, and we now have 465 students in grades 9-12. We graduated our first class of seniors in June 2017 and our cumulative graduation rate is 95%. Our students come from more than forty different middle schools, including public, parochial, and charter schools. Some are advanced students coming from magnet schools; others are beginning English Language Learners. What they all have in common is a desire to succeed. MESA students come to school every day, ready to work—we have a 93% attendance rate and a 93% punctuality rate, both significantly higher than other high schools in our district! When it comes to regents pass rates, MESA outperforms its peers by a rate of 20-30%!

Some key aspects of MESA's design are:

- Smart teaching—MESA uses a **Standards-Based Grading** system, which makes data understandable and accessible. This enables teachers to



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create targeted, focused instruction, and **helps students understand and track their own progress**. MESA teachers love data (or at least aren't afraid of it!).

- Smart support—MESA teachers have a **minimum of rote administrative duties** in order to better focus on planning, instruction, and assessment. Teachers receive ongoing coaching and feedback. MESA is committed to collaboratively developing and growing its teachers. Dedicated time for professional development and collaborative planning is built into the calendar.
- Smart scheduling—MESA's **school day starts and ends later** than most DOE schools, as research indicates that a late start helps high-school students succeed.
- Smart culture—MESA provides students with a separate effort grade each week, which will lead to rewards for students. MESA also emphasizes **positive** reinforcement for student effort and performance. All MESA teachers lead an Advisory, and serve as Advisor to 10-13 students.
- Smart relationships—MESA believes that all parents want their children to succeed, and enlists them as partners through phone calls, workshops, and frequent contact. **More than 85% of MESA parents attended parent-teacher conferences**, a number generally unheard of in unscreened urban high schools
- Smart calendar—MESA's calendar has 187 days of instruction, as well as dedicated PD and grading days. MESA's calendar and earlier start allow for "Intersession," during which students receive enrichment, skill remediation, or Regents preparation.

Specific Responsibilities

- In collaboration with the College Bound Department Leader, build MESA's college counseling program, generating awareness and buy-in from all stakeholders, internal and external.
- Meet regularly with a caseload of MESA students and communicate with their families beginning in 11th grade to develop college and/or career options as part of their post-secondary plan. Cohort will include both 11th and 12th graders.



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- Help develop and support students through MESA's Alumni Support Network following graduation and beyond
- Schedule and coordinate college trips, including annual April intersession overnight trip
- Schedule and coordinate visits from college admissions officers to campus.
- Creates school profile for distribution; collaborate to develop college counseling page on MESA website
- Advise on course selection and its consequences in the college selection process
- Coordinate administration of PSATs at MESA
- Coordinate MESA's SAT prep program and helps students register for SATs.
- Develop relationships and network of college admissions officers through attendance at national and regional conferences.
- Participate in sponsored college tours
- Work with appropriate MESA personnel to provide scholarship and extracurricular opportunities to MESA students, including internships, travel abroad programs, and enrichment opportunities.
- Coordinate relationships with CUNY to administer CollegeNow program, and other similar programs
- Develop and coordinate internships and work-study programs
- Work with Special Education department to create and support transition plans for Students with Disabilities.
- Other duties as assigned by Principal or Executive Director

Qualifications: (1) Minimum three years experience in an urban public or charter school as a guidance counselor with focus on college preferred 2) Demonstrated knowledge of college and career application process; (3) Demonstrated ability to work productively with staff and with diverse populations of students, parents, and families, including students with disabilities or students with limited English proficiency; (4) Demonstrated understanding of issues facing children and youth, especially in urban environments; (5) Spanish-speaker a plus.

Salary: Highly competitive, commensurate with experience.



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To apply: Please email your resume and cover letter explaining **specifically** why you would be a good fit for MESA to Arthur Samuels, Executive Director, at info@mesacharter.org with the subject heading "**College Counselor**." APPLY BY EMAIL ONLY. Due to the nature of the position and the volume of applications received, MESA will not be able to reply to all submissions. MESA will contact candidates with next steps.