

***BASE is a community of learners and designers who challenge each other to reflect, exchange ideas and create a better, more just world.***

Dear eighth graders and families,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. What a strange and terrible year it's been in New York City – especially in the Bronx. As painful as it has been, together with dedication and support from our community of teachers and parents we have been able to show tremendous support within and across the community.

As we look ahead to welcoming the class of 2025 to BASE next fall, I wanted to take a moment to personally welcome you. BASE opened in 2013 with the vision of creating a school that not only prepares students for college but prepares them to have an impact on our communities through computer science.

That vision is even stronger now, and over the past year we have spent lots of time evaluating our program, and **building in an explicit focus in classes on race justice and antiracism**. In our opinion, communities that aren't working hard to be antiracist always accidentally participate in institutional racism. This is true in the field of computer science as much as any other.

BASE has some key partnerships you should know about:

- **We are a proud 9-14 school!** Our pathway is in cybersecurity, and we partner with Bronx Community College. All students begin taking college classes in spring of 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and students who are on track academically can take up to 16 college credits by the time you graduate, and **if you want you can continue with BCC to earn a degree in cybersecurity at no cost to you.**
- We partner with iMentor, a college readiness program that matches all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders with a mentor, who supports you through junior and senior year and the first year of college. This is huge for the college application process!
- We are an Urban Assembly school, which means we are part of a network of socially conscious schools across the city that pays lots of attention to equity, college success and social-emotional supports for our students.

Whether you join BASE or another amazing school, it's important to remember that the choice you are making now needs to be done carefully and thoughtfully. There are more than 150 high schools in the Bronx – many of them could be an excellent fit!

Please join us for one of the three open houses for eighth graders and families over the next several weeks. To register visit [bronxsoftware.org](https://bronxsoftware.org), and we'll send you the Zoom info.

Good luck, and stay safe!



Ben Grossman, Principal