

# BIRCH WATHEN LENOX STUDENT PROFILE



## HOLLY ROSEN '23

When Holly Rosen transitioned into Birch Wathen Lenox in 8th grade, the support she received helped her blossom into a community leader and academic powerhouse. Now in her senior year, Holly has a keen eye towards the future, informed by the confidence, leadership skills, and academic rigor BWL has provided her.

**College/university plans:**

Applying to UPenn, Duke, Georgetown and Michigan (among others)

**Academic concentration/major:**

Entrepreneurship and Finance

**Academic/professional plans:**

The business of fashion

## A BWL Senior Ready To Take On The World

**ACADEMICS: SUPPORT BREEDS CONFIDENCE**

Holly Rosen is a self-described highly determined and laser-focused student, and she has the schedule to back it up. In her senior year at Birch Wathen Lenox, Holly is taking:

- AP: Comparative Government and Politics, Calculus, Statistics
- Shakespeare
- Finite Math
- college-level Computer Science

She is especially enthused about Computer Science, where she is exposed to languages like Java, Python and HTML. “Having access to such high level academic courses has opened my eyes to the power of technology, and working with systems and algorithms has inspired me to keep learning,” she says. She is also active with the Robotics Club and has relished the opportunity to compete at the First Robotics Competition.

The stellar faculty and the intimate learning community at Birch Wathen Lenox are what Holly credits with both igniting her interest in the course material and providing her with study and life skills that she will carry with her throughout her academic and professional life. Mr. Titcomb, her former pre-calculus and physics teacher, stands out in her mind as, “by far the toughest teacher at Birch, but he’s the smartest person I’ve ever met. I love learning from him. He’s done a really good job of preparing us to be independent and to think outside the box.” Teachers at Birch Wathen Lenox make a point of making themselves available to students. They hold regular “extra help” office hours, and Holly even recalls a time when she and a classmate were stuck on Calculus coursework, and their teacher jumped on a Zoom call on a weekend and walked them through the problems. “I feel like that doesn’t really happen at big schools. She had no obligation to do so, but that is hallmark Birch.”

For Holly, that dedication and availability motivate her to work harder. “I really value the relationships I have with my teachers, and I work a lot harder when my relationships are strong. The small class sizes and overall environment within the school fosters those relationships.” When asked if she feels that the academics at BWL have prepared her well for college, Holly said, “I feel that I’m prepared to take on basically anything; the teachers genuinely care.”

Holly’s passion for learning is propelling her towards her future. She plans to pursue a career in the field of business, and to utilize her critical thinking and problem solving skills and continue to grow her understanding of how to be a more impactful leader. Her experience with the admissions process thus far echoes her experience with her academic



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faculty: the support she has received has held, guided, and encouraged her in what could otherwise be an overwhelming process. Holly's experience with Junior Seminar was a first and important look at the entire admissions process, including analyzing sample applications, setting up her own resume and applications, and writing and reviewing college essays. "Prior to my senior year, I already completed 3 or 4 drafts of possible college essays. This was really helpful because it provided me with a jump start to the application process." All of the college admissions resources at BWL "definitely make it less overwhelming because if I had a question; there were countless resources available to me. I have [Director of College Counseling] Mr. Takao as my college counselor, and he is always available to answer questions and provide support."

Future-focused, Holly is hoping that college will give her the opportunity to expand her understanding of marketing management and entrepreneurship. Leveraging the knowledge, confidence, and experience she has gained at Birch Wathen Lenox, Holly is full steam ahead.

## SOCIAL AND EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE: COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP AT BWL

After a few years at Stephen Gaynor, a private special education school in Manhattan, Holly transitioned to Birch Wathen Lenox in 8th grade. Transitioning to a new school can be an intimidating endeavor, but thanks to the Buddy System in the Middle School, Holly's early days at BWL were seamless. "The buddy system was really helpful. [My buddy] made sure I didn't get lost and provided me with the basics to seamlessly acclimate to a new school." In fact, her paired buddy has become one of her closest friends at BWL. The following year, her first in the Upper School, was her first exposure to the BWL Prefect program, a peer mentorship and administration liaison program led by 11th and 12th graders. "Even just little tips and tricks that only a junior or senior can provide was really helpful in the transition." Holly's experience as a mentee was so meaningful that it inspired her to become a Prefect herself, giving back to the school and student body. Through the Prefect program, she also provides tours to prospective students and families. "I'm really proud to be able to show off our school," she says.

Beyond the Prefect program, Holly is highly involved in several clubs and extracurriculars. She is the co-founder and co-President of the Spirit Club, which is "by far" her favorite high school initiative, and through it, she plans and executes

community building events like Spirit Week, schoolwide assemblies and BWL's first-ever homecoming and accompanying dance. After three years working on the yearbook, this year, she is President, and overseeing the first-ever full school — lower, middle, and upper school — yearbook. "It's really easy to get involved in the school community. It allows for a lot of independence and provides a really good opportunity to put yourself out there and get involved."

Above all else, Holly believes that her extracurricular involvement has taught her key leadership skills that she will take with her to college and beyond. "I definitely would like to build off of the activities I've done here, especially in leadership. These leadership experiences have not only taught me how to delegate, organize and execute; they have also given me the opportunity to evoke real change throughout the school." Whatever college she attends next year, Holly is eager to play a meaningful role in her campus community and professional life. Her experience at Birch Wathen Lenox all but ensures she will do just that.

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## BWL IS A FAMILY

As she prepares for graduation and the next phase of her life, Holly is grateful to be where she is now, at Birch Wathen Lenox. "I came from a small middle school into a small high school. I feel fortunate to be part of such an active and welcoming community and have built real, meaningful relationships along the way. It's like a family."

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## IN HER TEACHER'S WORDS

Holly has been a terrific student who always jumps at the opportunity to meet new challenges. She holds herself to lofty standards and has always done everything possible to set herself up for success. During class periods she would always volunteer enthusiastically and frequently ask questions to clarify any misconceptions that she was holding on to or to clarify her thought process. Outside of school, Holly would organize study groups with her friends and coordinate which problems they would work on together in preparation for assessments in math and physics. While Holly prefers to be literal and direct, she has grown tremendously in her ability to generalize and 'think outside of the box' during her time at BWL. It was a privilege to witness her progress and development in terms of habits, resilience and critical thinking skills during her junior year.

— *Mr. Titcomb, Upper School math and science teacher*