

# IVS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2020



Top to bottom: Lower Campus with kitchen, computer lab, classrooms for Form 1 & 2 and temporary library and extra curricular subject teaching.  
Upper Campus with new staffroom, science laboratory and classrooms for Form 3 and 4  
Inside the staffroom, our computer laboratory and lower campus gate entrance

## 2020 COVID-19 IMPACT

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kenyan government closed all schools in mid-March 2020. In mid-October only the final year students (Form 4) were allowed to resume with their final year Kenya Certificate

Secondary Education (KCSE) exam moving from November 2020 to March 2021. Over the next two years, the school calendar has been changed to accommodate this suspension of education for all students and will only resume the normal school opening and closing as of 2023.



### Impact on IVS

The majority of our students do not have electricity at home so online learning was not feasible for children in rural areas. Students therefore came to school individually to fetch reading materials prepared by teachers to be used at home. They also kept their textbooks and did all their revising and learning at home according to a schedule organised by the Head Teacher and his team. IVS students have also did not have their daily school meals, which includes porridge for breakfast and a lunch. Friends of the International School (FOTIS) generously provided funds for two distributions of 10kg of maize to each IVS student, to help them and their families, through this difficult period.

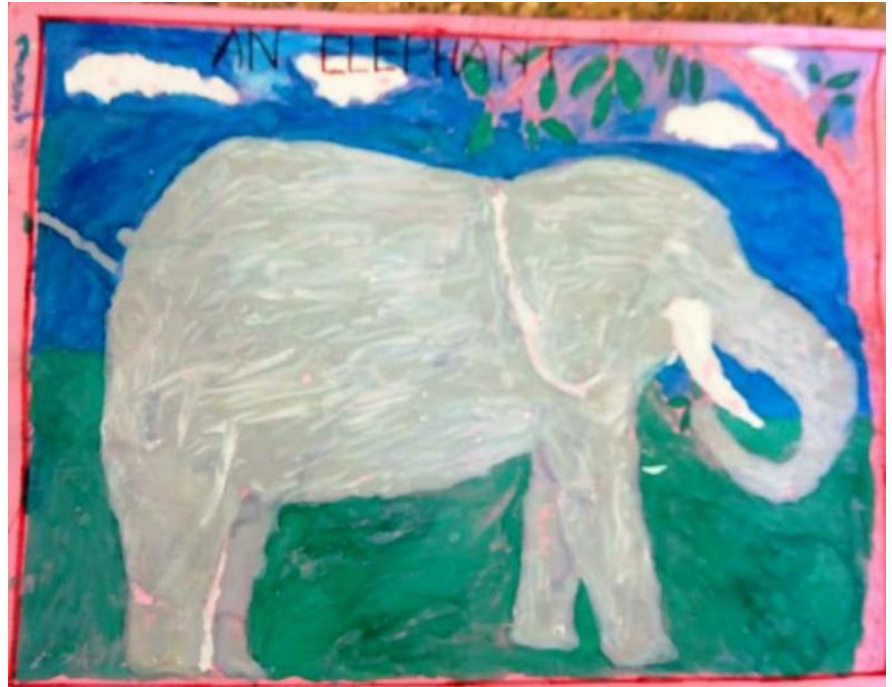


# STUDENT REACTION TO COVID-19

Artwork by Form 4 students.

The outbreak of COVID-19 virus has affected me in the field of academics. While at home I was unable to study enough because I had to help with the home chores. I have now prepared a new timetable which I am following and I am able to consult with teachers, use revision books and use the library so I can achieve my dream.

By Vivian Amisi



This year 2020 has been a great challenge to my education due to the dangerous disease known as Corona. It was first discovered in China and is now everywhere. Due to the outbreak, we were restricted going to school. When at home I find it difficult to revise due to the distraction from friends and also my family members. I thank the management of the school as they came up with a programme of revision materials to be supplied, that greatly helped me despite the challenges of the COVID-19 virus. I am trying my best to utilise my time well and do revision with my fellow students and achieve my 2020 academic goals.

By Mercy Kageha



## FUND RAISING 2020-2021

5 hand basins  
required to ensure  
Covid-19 guidelines  
are followed in 2021  
when school re-opens

### 5 Hand Basins

The Government came to check all the facilities at

IVS, and we need to have more hand wash basins accessible to our students. We currently have two and we need to have seven, so that each class, the kitchen, the staff and the school entrance each have their own wash basin. Each basin costs CHF 60. We are currently fund raising.

Any donation that you would like to give toward this would be most welcome. Thank you.



### Science Laboratory Gas Installation

The construction of the science laboratory was finished earlier this year. We are now equipping the lab with the necessary furniture.

We have received 3 quotations for the installation of the gas distribution system in the new science laboratory. This includes expensive copper piping, Bunsen burners as well as gas cylinders and their protective cages. We are currently fund raising for CHF 2'500 in order to install a safe and secure gas system for the student science experiment practicals.

A gas distribution  
system is required to  
fully equip the lab for  
science experiments





## TEACHERS' REPORTS 2020

### Computer Studies: Article by Gilbert Amwayi

Technology is the future and trends keep on changing for a better tomorrow. The introduction of computer studies in schools was a stepping stone for Kenya's 2030 vision as it produces students who will have computer skills that will allow them to get absorbed into the job market.

Form 4 Computer Studies has three papers that are examined, paper 1 which is a theory, paper 2 practical and paper 3 which is a Microsoft Access database project that is done over 7 months. All 2019 Computer Studies student managed to get entry points to join university. The current class has seven students and we are working smart to attain the best grades. Our projected mean is 10.5 B+. To achieve our objective I am ensuring that I finish the syllabus on time and start doing topical revision to make the students remember what they had done in the lower forms. The computer laboratory has nine working computers that are mostly used by students in all the forms. Thank you sponsors for supporting the growth of computer skills in school.



### The Head of Curriculum (Article by Dennis Riro)

A person who is educated has learned how to change. This is the phrase that motivates me every day I come to school. I am pleased that learners and teachers are self-driven and that teachers prepare their tools of work in time. As the Head of Curriculum, I know the key to success is:- Believing in yourself, cultivating a "success" mindset, overcoming procrastination and not having excuses. I always encourage learners to have a vision and good attitude towards academics. Whatever your vision, do not let your resources hold you back. "If you can fly high, why stay low?"



Above photo: Head of Curriculum, Dennis Riro

Right photo: Geography field study

### **Humanities Department: Article by Hustings Agama and Nancy Maina** (in the photo right)

The Humanities department consists of the three main subjects i.e. Geography, History and Government and Religious Education. The teachers are well versed with current trends in the modern world in the fields of Science and Technology, climate change and Kenyan political and electoral processes. Henry Ford once said "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together progress, working together is success."

### **Language Department, article by Euvenalis Adisa, Dennis Riro and Nancy Maina**

In the Language department we cover two subjects including English and Swahili. There are different strategies used to ensure excellent performance despite mother tongue influence. We have a language policy: students are to use English as the mode of communication from Monday to Thursday and Swahili on Friday.



Also students have been put into groups of five to ensure group work is enabled. We also encourage consultation and assessment between students. Student are also encouraged to read articles and story books apart from the syllabus work so that they can improve their vocabulary. In conclusion, the Department has always been posting average results in various examinations but we are working to ensure better results.

### **Mathematics Department (article by Eliakim Angoyia)**

This is one of the core departments at the school. Mathematics is a compulsory examinable subject and as such we are blessed with two young, self motivated and energetic teachers namely: Eliakim Angoyia and Simon Peter.

The department`s policy is "**Solve Five problems Each day**". This implies that every student must solve 5 different Maths problems every day and present the workings for marking.

Since Maths is applied in most disciplines in real life, we encourage students to work smart and excel in it. By understanding maths, one raises his/her levels of critical thinking. We have set aside a 30 minutes session called "**Maths hour**". Between 1.30p.m-2:00p.m every day. Learners use this time to discuss and solve problems in their ability groups. Here, the learners interact closely. All students are encouraged to be peer teachers in areas one understands well. Teachers supervise this session and offer guidance and assistance to the group members. This has helped the learners to develop confidence and a positive attitude towards the subject and as they prepare to become future leaders in the society.





### Science Department

Odari Sheldon and Simon Peter in collaboration with the Laboratory Technician, Edward Osinde, are responsible for this Department.

Practical sessions in Chemistry, Physics and Biology are backbones of these subjects.

Congratulations and thank you to all the sponsors for constructing an ultra modern science laboratory which will improve performance in all our science subjects. We have enjoyed using it this year in 2020.



### **Dean of Studies (DOS) Article by Hustings Agama**

(in the photo right)

International Village School achieves its success through discipline among students, good time management, team work, teachers' commitment and good co-ordination with the school management.

The school has an average of 27 students per class which makes it easier for the teacher to employ whatever methodologies that he/she wishes to apply to ensure the concept is driven home. Most government schools have a minimum of 40 students per class.

### **Head Teacher: Godfrey Tabani Wepukhulu**

I am one of the pioneers of the school. I have been with the school since its inception in 2008. I have also always been the Agricultural teacher, while taking over the responsibility of the School, as Head Teacher, at the end of 2016. We have multiple challenges including a high turnover of teachers. The high turnover is due to the Government's hiring policy, a newly qualified teacher will only be employed by the government about 3 years after graduating. Our teachers therefore usually leave IVS to

pursue a government job that offers job security and a higher salary. However we have never let this impact us negatively, rather we consider that we have a group of well qualified and enthusiastic teachers who come to school with the latest pedagogic methodologies and syllabus coverage.

At the same time, I am proud to be the Head Teacher at a young private school that has excellent results. In 2019, there were over 679, 222 nation-wide students writing their final exam. IVS were in the list of the top 200 schools in Kenya nation-wide at position 113!

We have achieved a lot, but it is thanks to our sponsors especially, for ensuring our students have the best tools they need to excel while our teachers are given an optimal educational environment to help them teach effectively.





## REMINDER OF OUR 2019 ACADEMIC RESULTS

- \* 73% (19 of 26 students) in the class proceed directly to university
- \* 4 of the top 5 in the class were girls
- \* 9 girls achieved university entrance
- \* 0% scored below a D+ compared to 50% Nationwide
- \* 1st position out of 20 schools in Emuhaya Sub-County
- \* 4th position out of 163 schools in Vihiga County (including top national schools)
- \* School mean score of 7.692 (B-) compared to 2018 mean score of 6.467 (C)



Mathematics recorded the highest number of grade A's, which is a phenomenal result as normally this is the weakest subject across Kenya. Religious Education was the most improved subject in 2019, while Physics was the only subject that had a negative deviation compared to 2018 results, all other subjects had a positive increase.

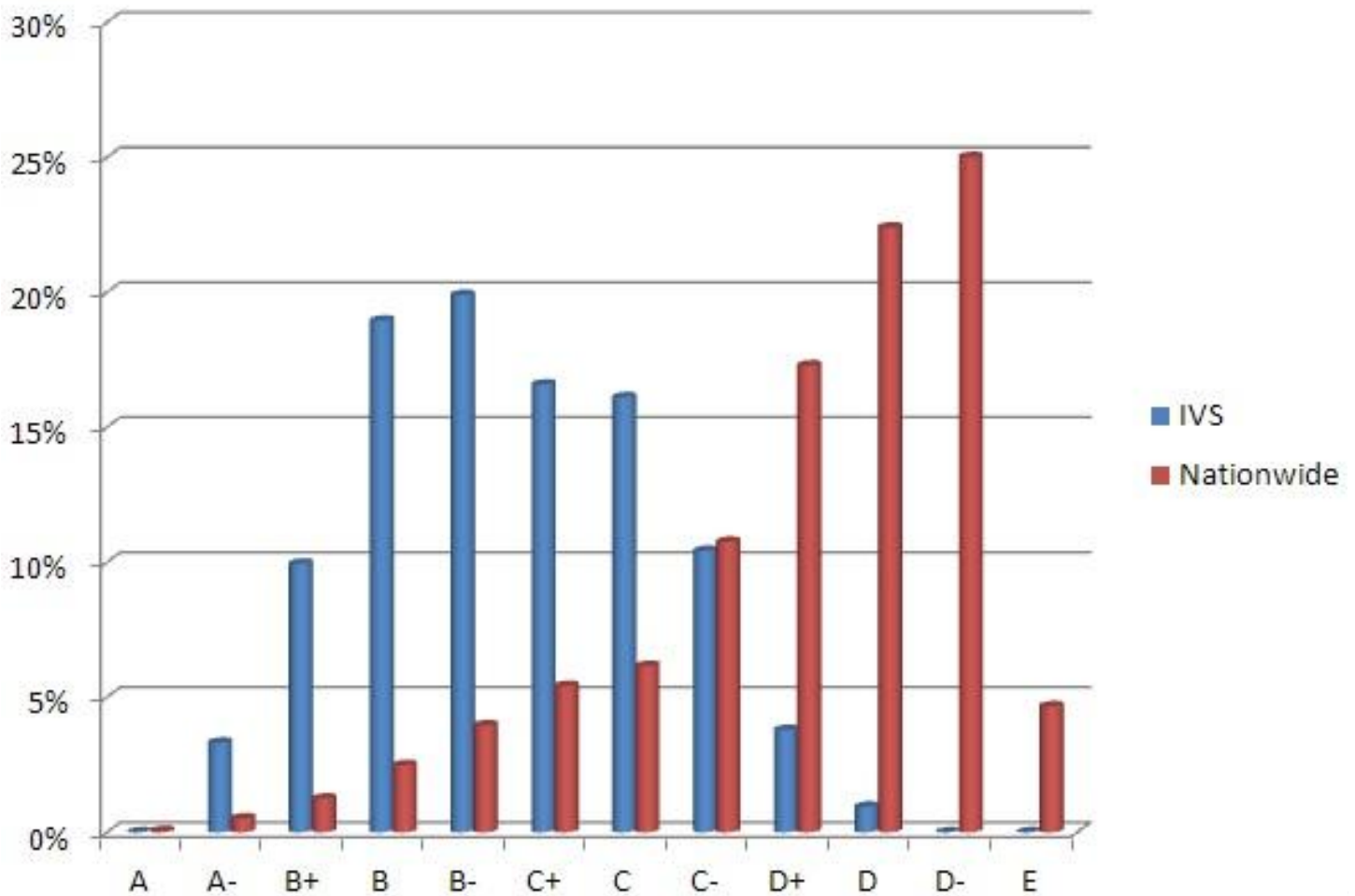
We are proud that IVS can offer such exceptional results compared to county and nationwide results. Our children all come from underprivileged homes, where it is sometimes difficult to have more than one plate of food a day, and they live with grandparents or guardians — so the results are even more exceptional! Each student belongs to a small group called Foster Family at School, where a teacher is in charge of their welfare besides their academic education.



**Thank you to our sponsors without your financial support, the school would not be able to help these students discover their potential.**



## 2011-2018 Results Comparison IVS STUDENTS COMPARED NATIONWIDE



For students who get a C+ and above the Government gives them a loan to study at university. Students who get a C and C- can join a technical & vocational training institute and teacher training colleges. Students with a D+, can apply for jobs with the Government in the army, police etc. Below a D+, no professional career or further studies may be pursued.

Grades	IVS	Gov. Schools
Above C+	69%	14%
D+ up to C+	30%	34%
Less than D+	1%	52%



Of the students who have graduated at IVS since 2011 until 2018, we are proud to say that 69% of our students have graduated with a C+ and above and 30% with a D+ and above, this compares to the Government statistics that shows more than 50% leave secondary school with less than a D+ unable to pursue any professional career or study further.

## INTERESTING FACTS

### School Houses

Students are allocated to a School House and remain in that House for the duration of their 4 years at secondary school. The Houses foster good team spirit and friendly rivalry in school sports and competitions.

The School Houses (created by the students themselves in 2008) are:

**Newton:** Sir Isaac Newton, the great mathematician and physicist.

**Ngugi:** Famous Kenyan writer, original name James Thiong'o Ngugi. East Africa's leading novelist, who's popular "Weep Not Child" (1964) was the first major novel in English by an East African.

**Atlas:** The Titan who supported the heavens from the ranges now called the Atlas Mountain range, and governs the moon. He personified the quality of endurance. In one tradition, Atlas led the Titans in a rebellion against Zeus and was condemned to bear the heavens upon his shoulders.

**Shakespeare:** The English playwright & greatest sonnet poet in history, William Shakespeare.

### School Motto: Education Through Participation

Besides Guidance & Counselling, the students also have weekly **Life Skills** lesson. When we have overseas visitors the students especially enjoy their time learning about their visitor's country and culture.

All 10 teachers are also « **foster-parents** », and each takes a group of about 10 to 15 students who they meet with and discuss any issues at home and at school on a weekly basis.



## About International Village School

The International Village School, Emuhaya district in Western Kenya opened on 1st March 2008.

*The construction and running of the School is sponsored by many private donors, including Sea-Quest Marine (in Geneva) as well as several organisations including FOTIS (in Geneva) and Tushirikiane (Spain).*

Most of the fundraising is done through ConnectSwiss in Switzerland.

### School Mission

**To provide quality education to needy but high performing students and give students exposure to international visitors to broaden their horizons beyond the village experience.**



If you would like to make a donation to International Village School, or sponsor a student for USD 600 per year, online donations can be made directly to the bank account or through [www.connectswiss.com/donate.htm](http://www.connectswiss.com/donate.htm):

### Swiss account details:

Account holder: ConnectSwiss  
Switzerland  
Bank: UBS SA, Geneva, Switzerland  
BIC/SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A  
IBAN: CH83 0024 0240 6815 9501 C

