

# THE RWANDA SCHOOL PROJECT

LEARN.EMPOWER.LEAD.

## Our Students Return to School in September 2020

After a long wait (since March 16, when schools were ordered to close to prevent the spread of COVID-19) Rwamagana Leaders' School students will be back on campus this September. Although things will be a bit different, we are excited to reunite with our students and staff.

As we get ready for our September re-opening, we have embarked on a journey of preparation to ensure that we provide a safe environment for our students, staff and visitors. The health of our students is paramount.



Moses Ssenyonjo

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

We have been joined by our local students in our preparations. They mopped the dormitories, washed mosquito nets

and cleaned around their dormitories.

Further steps we have taken to prepare include purchasing three contactless infrared thermometers to monitor the temperature of all students, staff and visitors. One will be used by the security personnel at the main entrance to campus.

At our entrance, we placed a large hand washing station to ensure that whoever enters the school thoroughly washes his /her hands with clean water and soap.

We have placed two hand washing stations at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the 1st floor classrooms on either side of our main building block (Founders Hall) to ensure that students and teachers wash their hands with soap and water before going to classes. We shall also have hand sanitizers in every classroom. More hand washing stations have been placed at the cafeteria, at science laboratories, restrooms and other locations around the school.

Informational stickers about COVID-19 have been placed on the walls in and around the entire campus (continued on back)



Clockwise from top left: Students help to sanitize the dormitory areas; our new contactless thermometers; signs to help remind students and staff to practice social distancing and wear masks; a hand washing station for students and staff.



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### SCHOOL REOPENING UPDATE

**THANK YOU** for your support of our school during these difficult times. We have been busy during our school closure and rather than sending you our usual newsletter, our program director, Moses Ssenyonjo, has written a report telling you of food distribution, how we are getting ready to open in September as a boarding school only, as well as what we are doing to get ready to keep our students and teachers safe.



Karl Smith

PRESIDENT

If you can help us financially at this crucial time, we would be so grateful. We currently have students whose families cannot support them as boarding students and consequently we are seeking new sponsors. Please consider this significant commitment as outlined on the enclosed envelope.

In order to fulfill our promise to educate the children of Rwanda, we have big plans for moving into the future following this worldwide pandemic. We ask for your partnership in this endeavor.

*(continued from front)* to inform students about what to do. Some stickers encourage students to wash their hands regularly with clean water and soap, to wear masks and practice social distancing, and inform students where to go if they experience any symptoms.

We shall provide for free five reusable masks to each student and staff member to ensure that they use the masks on campus and to prevent use of a single mask beyond the recommended hours. We will also help students iron their masks before using them. Our masks will be bought from a local Rwanda Standards Board and Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority-approved provider or manufacturer operating in our district.

Finally, we are currently seeking partnership with a community hospital to ensure that our students do not leave school should they become ill or need medical attention. We shall set up a temporary clinic at school where medical personnel will be called in to check on the health of the students every weekend and whenever a student feels sick.

## Boarding Is Temporarily Required For All Our Students

Safety and the good health of our students are more important today than ever before. With all students boarding at school, we have full control of ensuring their safety from the COVID-19 as compared to when some come from their homes. We currently have 31 day students who need your help. We might have control over their interactions during the day at school but we are not sure of what transpires when they go back home and we do not know who they meet when they go to fetch water, go to the market or even those with whom they play. We do not want to see one of the 31 students contaminating the entire population of our school. We wish to have these 31 students in the boarding section, but they cannot afford



the cost. Losing them is not an option, so we are working with the families to find ways to board them during this temporary period. Would you consider sponsoring a student?

Full sponsorship is \$160/mo with half or quarter sponsorships available. You can sponsor a student by going to our website. For further information, contact Karl Smith. Thank you.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We provide high-quality secondary education in Rwanda by offering a secure and nurturing school environment that transforms vulnerable youth into future leaders and problem-solvers who champion environmental sustainability and social change.

## VISION STATEMENT

We envision quality secondary education that is universally accessible and equitable, with the aim to equip Rwanda's youth with the necessary skills and tools to develop into the next generation of skilled and compassionate leaders.

## VALUES STATEMENT

We set standards for responsibility and high achievement, and develop an inclusive, supportive, and trusting student body that is able to leverage critical thinking and make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond. Founded upon the principles of Christianity, we recognize and acknowledge students from all religious backgrounds and beliefs by promoting a school culture of respect, awareness, and tolerance. Core to our philosophy is experiential learning, a pedagogy that empowers students through cross-disciplinary instruction, project-based learning, global awareness and character-building.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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