

2018



ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA SECONDARY SCHOOL  
Nairobi, Kenya

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## **Nairobi: St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School**

St. Aloysius (St. Al's) is a Catholic day secondary school in the Jesuit tradition, managed by Christian Life Community in Kenya. Located just outside Kibera slum, St. Al's was opened in January 2004, to students who have lost either one or both parents due to AIDS, and are living in Kibera slum or coming from poor family backgrounds. The school continues to register and improve retention and graduation levels among the students. In 2017, the school had a total population of 300 students with 265 students on full scholarship. 193 former students in colleges and universities also benefit from the school activities. The school has 35 (16 female and 19 male) teaching and non-teaching staff.

### **Academic Performance**

A total of 62 students (30 girls, 32 boys) graduated in 2017; 56 of them (25 girls, 31 boys) qualified for tertiary education to pursue degree, diploma and certificate courses. This represents 90% of the students who have the possibility of continuing their education. At the sub-county level, St. Al's was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 19 schools with a mean grade of 5.26.

### **Activities/Projects Implemented**

- **Mentorship Program:** Male students were fully incorporated into the mentorship program. As a result, there was an improved level of discipline, self-esteem, and academic performance among them. It helped both boys and girls in the school to understand and appreciate each other both on common and unique issues that affect them. With the support of mentors in the school, students were able to open up and share openly on issues that affect and hamper their academic progress.
- **School Visits:** 4 pilgrims from the United States of America (USA) accompanied by a Jesuit Priest from New York visited the school. The pilgrims were able to visit various Jesuit projects within Nairobi and attended the Feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, the school patron.

The school also received students and teachers from Regis High School in the USA who together with the school chaplain participated in a 3-day Quest Retreat with form 3 students of St. Al's. They also capped their visit by joining the entire St. Al's community in marking the feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

- **Retreat:** all staff took part in a 3-day retreat on Ignatian pedagogy.
- **Renovations:** the school underwent major renovations that focused on painting the entire campus. This gave the school a refreshed look and a much needed facelift.



