

2015

JESUITS OF EASTERN AFRICA PROVINCE



[ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA HIGH SCHOOL]

2015 PROFILE

Brief History

St. Aloysius (St. Al's) is a Catholic day school in the Jesuit tradition, sponsored by Christian Life Community in Kenya. Located just outside Kibera Slum, St. Al's was opened in January, 2004. The school is open 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.

Each year, St. Aloysius invites its graduates to perform 6 months of community service in and around Kibera. Thereafter, they proceed to tertiary education in various colleges and universities through the scholarship provided by the school. The school currently has 293 students (151 boys, 142 girls) and 19 members of staff (11 male, 8 female). Students pay an annual tuition fee of USD 1,200. However only a handful are able to pay the tuition fee as 280 students are on full scholarship.

School Performance

A total of 68 students (33 boys, 35 girls) sat for the final National examinations. The school performed very well with an overall mean score of 7.128 which is a C+ (plus). With these results, the school was ranked the 4th best out of 38 schools in Lang'ata District, and the 2nd best mixed secondary school in the same district. The top student, Morphine Aoko attained grade A (plain). 64 students qualified for degree and diploma programs in different Universities and Colleges.

Activities/Projects



- **E-Readers:** 300 Amazon kindles (e-readers) with digitized curriculum were purchased for students and teachers; this reduced the usage of hard copy textbooks.

- **E- Learning:** projectors and screens were acquired and installed in all classrooms and laboratories to facilitate E-learning. As a result, teachers are able to teach better by incorporating the use of pictures and

videos, and also cover more content in short time. 100 computers were also networked to enhance online learning and research by students and staff.

- **Capacity Building:** both teaching and non-teaching staff completed a 3-day training on counseling skills in order to enable them handle students better.

- **Music program:** musical instruments were acquired thereby allowing the school choir to have better practice and be able to compete at the Kenya National Music and Drama Festivals. The choir club won several trophies in 2014 and also released the 2nd school Album.
- **Furniture:** additional furniture was acquired for students and staff for starting a third stream in Form One so as to increase enrolment. More shelves were also added in the library to facilitate the stocking of more books.
- **Mentorship program:** the mentorship program dubbed '*Kipawa Changu*' was carried out to empower girls and improve their academic performance and participation in decision-making. As a result, the performance and participation of girls in exams and school activities significantly improved. The top student from the school in the 2013 and 2014 National Examinations was a girl. There are now more girls in the top ten students in academics in each class than there have ever been since the school started.
- **The Mustard Seed:** with support of a benefactor from Britain, a program dubbed 'The Mustard Seed' was initiated to help graduates develop the required skills to find and keep jobs in the competitive job market. The main aim of the program is to reduce the obstacles that hinder graduates from securing employment, through financial or material support. In addition, the program acts as career path to the graduates by giving them necessary skills and tools they require to get an open door in the job market. This is achieved through training on developing good Curriculum vitae, and cover letters in preparation for a job search. They are also taught good interview skills. The program also supports graduates with other abilities such as entrepreneurship.

Challenges

- Integration of Information Communication Technology in teaching requires time and resources with regard to training staff how to use the new technology and in teaching students
- Requirement of additional resources needed to provide mentorship to male students

To support this program, kindly email the Development Director:

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