Congratulations on your performance on the KCSE. Because of your excellent results, you are one of a small number of students invited to apply to the Kenya Scholar Access Program (KenSAP), an extremely selective program that each year helps a few gifted students gain admission to the most academically distinguished universities in North America.

KenSAP will conduct its selection of new students in two stages. The initial stage will reduce the applicant pool to a shortlist on the basis of the candidates’ KCSE results and the information provided in their KenSAP application forms and supporting documents. Short-listed candidates will be invited to take part in the final stage of the selection process, which will consist of a written examination and an interview. Further details will be provided to the short-listed candidates. The students finally selected for the program will be informed by phone or SMS a few days after the completion of the exams and interviews.

The best way to improve your chances of admission to KenSAP is to complete the application included with this letter as thoroughly, accurately, and honestly as you can. The application includes many short answer questions, several short essays, and one long essay. We urge you to think carefully about your responses, draft them, and correct them before typing your final version. False or deceitful information on your KenSAP application will result in your application being removed from consideration.

You are encouraged to complete the application carefully and to send it as a digital document (MS Word doc., text doc., Google doc.) via WhatsApp to 0728-203021 or email it to [kensap2021@gmail.com](mailto:kensap2020@gmail.com) as soon as you can. If you are selected for the shortlist, you will be informed by email and given details about the second stage of selection.

If you have any questions about the program or the selection process, do not hesitate to contact the KenSAP staff. We can be reached on WhatsApp at 0728-203021 or by email at [kensap2021@gmail.com](mailto:kensap2021@gmail.com).

Yours faithfully,

John Manners

Alan Davidson

Connor Cobb

KenSAP Staff

**Part 1: Personal Information**

1. Applicant’s Full Name: (First, Middle, Surname)

Kiplagat Moses Harold

2. Date of birth: (Please spell the month, *e.g. August 5, 2002*)

February 23,2002

3. Place of Birth: (Please give the precise village, county and nearest large center.)

Pioneer ,Uasin Gishu , Eldoret

4. Home village: (Please give the precise village or sub-location, county and nearest large center.)

Cherota , Elgeyo-marakwet , Chepkorio

5. Home address: (**where you and your family live when you are not in school**, not your ancestral home)

103-40404, Rongo

6. Phone number and email address: (Please provide **the best number at which to reach you,** as well **as an alternate number** of a family member through whom we can reach you.Specify which is yours and which is your family member’s)

My number : +254782917926

Mother's number: +254715578360

My email address : [haroldm731@gmail.com](mailto:haroldm731@gmail.com)

7. Secondary school(s): (name, address, telephone number, headmaster’s name)

Kapsabet Boys high school , 10-30100,

Number :0202030117,headmaster's name is Kipchumba Maiyo .

8. Primary school(s): **(Please list ALL you have attended,** withname and address, and whether the school is government-supported or private)

Northgate school , 5343-00300, it is a private school

9. KCPE score.

408

**Education and Activities**

10. **Rank in Form** (your position in your school’s entire Form 4, based on KCSE score), plus the total number of students in the form and the number who share your position (e.g. Position 8 out of 212 students; 4 students share the same position).

I was in position 9 out of 352 students ; 15 students shared this position.

11. **Academic and other distinctions** you have achieved. Give the precise name and year of each (e.g. Position three, Brookside Math contest, 2019)

Position eight in Nandi county , Pesacoin essay writing 2021.

Position three, Biology contest held at St. Joseph's Girls' High School - Chepterit , 2018

12. **Extracurricular activities** **at school**, giving leadership positions and distinctions achieved. (Be specific. For example, if sports, specify which sport, position, competitive level reached, etc.) Please estimate the number of hours you spent per week on each activity, the number of weeks you engaged in that activity in a school year, and the years in which you engaged in the activity (e.g. Forms 2 and 3).

Form 2 debate representative , 2 hours per week in form 2

Discipleship leader , 3 hours per week form 3

Christian Union chairman , fulltime , form 4

13. **Principal activities** **outside school**, giving leadership positions and distinctions achieved. (These might include church or community service activities, work you do at home or any other jobs you may have had.) Please estimate the number of hours you spend per week on each activity, the number of weeks you engaged in that activity in a year, and the years in which you engaged in the activity.

Community service at a children's home , Rescue center , 8 hours per week , 2 weeks 2019

I help my grandmother to raise chickens at home , 3 hours per week .

Helping children from KD foundation by buying supplies and cooking for them ,4 hours per week , 1 week , 2019.

14. How have you spent your time since completing Form Four? Please write a short paragraph detailing the activities you have engaged in, some of which you may have already mentioned.

After completing my highschool studies I have been helping my grandparents at their home to rear some chickens which we usually sell to make some money , also I have been going round selling fruits .

15. Favorite pastimes, hobbies, interests. (Be specific. What do you do in your free time? For example, if reading, give a few recent titles and authors.)

Watching documentaries about animals and world issues

I also enjoy cooking with my grandmother and helping her out .

16. Have you sat or do you plan to sit the American SAT exam? If yes, please give the date(s) and all scores.

No, I have never sat for an SAT exam

**Family**

17. **Parents’ (and/or guardians’) names, occupations, and contact information**. (**Be precise**. With respect to occupations, for example, if your parents are farmers, give the acreage farmed, crops raised, number of livestock, etc. If they are employed, give job titles, employers and approximate number of years at the given job. If they own a business, how long have they owned the business, how many employees? If they are retired, give the previous job title and length of employment.)

**Parent 1/ Guardian:**

My mother is an administrative assistant at Rongo University she has been there since 2012

**Parent 2/ Guardian:**

My father has been a farmer; he farms approximately two acres.

If your parents or guardians have paying jobs outside the home, do they also have a shamba? A small business? If so, please describe it (e.g. number of acres, crops grown, number and kind of livestock. If a business, where? What type? How many employees?).

They do not have any other paying jobs outside their normal jobs .

18. **Parents’ Education.** Give the name of **all** schools and the level or degree completed. (If your parents’ education continued beyond secondary school, give the name of the post-secondary institution, the diploma or degree earned, and the year earned.)

**Parent 1/ Guardian Education:**

My mother attended Hill school primary then later Loreto Matunda and Moi girls

She then later went to Digital Advisory Learning center where she got a higher diploma in management

**Parent 2/ Guardian Education:**

My father attended kericho primary and later Nakuru Boys high school . He then proceeded to Moi university to study a degree in creative arts .

19. **Siblings.** Give names, birth years, educational level and occupation. (For education, please specify **all** post-secondary institutions attended, degree(s) earned.) Include half-siblings.

Louisa Chebet ,2000, she is currently at Kenya technical University .

Enoch kigen ,2018 , he is my half-sibling and is still in nursery school .

20. Please name any person other than you and your siblings whom your parents or guardians support and

briefly describe the relationship (e.g. cousin, grandmother, etc.)

Julia Gimnyigei , aunt to me and sister to my mother

Samwel kipruto , my cousin and nephew to my mother

21. Who paid for all four years of high school? How much did your parents or guardians pay for your last year of high school?

My mother , in the last year they paid a total of 54000ksh

22. Who paid for your primary school? How much were fees each year? (Specify for each school attended.)

My mother paid for my primary , fees was 18150ksh for Northgate school .

23. What other sources of support, if any, did you receive in paying your school fees? What was the amount?

Yes my late uncle Alfred did support me he paid roughly 20000ksh for my fees

24. Were you ever sent home from school to collect fees? If yes, please elaborate.

Yes . In my highschool all the years I have been sent home for fees reasons , the last I remember was in form 4 we were told to go back home and I went out and called my parent in town to talk to the teacher so I can be allowed back .

**Home**

25. Does your family own your home (the place where you reside when you are not in school)?

No , my parent does not own the house but pays rent for it .

26. Please describe your home:

1. Location (town, village, countryside, etc.).
2. Year constructed.
3. Number of rooms.
4. Construction materials (e.g. mud walls, thatched roof; concrete walls, metal roof, etc.).
5. Plumbing (piped water; indoor taps and flush toilet, outdoor latrine, etc.).
6. Electricity (if present, its source – mains, generator, battery, solar).

It's in Rongo , it was constructed in 2015, it is a two bedroomed house . It is concrete walls , there is piped water and a flush toilet and also pit latrines in the compound

31. Does your family own: (If so, please give the make, model and approximate year of manufacture.)

a. A car:

1. A refrigerator.
2. A TV.
3. A satellite dish.
4. A computer.

We own a TV it is Amco and was approximately manufactured in 1996 . We also have a satellite dish which is star times constructed in 2012 .

32. Do you have a passport? If yes, please explain the purpose for which you obtained it.

No I do not have a passport .

33. Do you own a mobile phone? Please give the make and model.

Yes I have a mobile phone , its is Tecno spark 3

34. Where and how do you usually access the internet? How often (e.g. daily, weekly, twice per week, etc.)?

I access the internet at home daily .

35. What are your favorite social media? Roughly how much data do you use in a week (MB? GB?)?

My favorite social media apps are WhatsApp and Facebook . In a week I use roughly 2GB

36. What is the best gift you’ve ever received and who gave it to you? Explain why it is the best gift you’ve ever received.

I was given a bicycle back in primary school. My mother gave it to me and it is my best gift because I had really liked to own a bicycle and at that time things were hard at home and to see that my mother went out of her way to get me one makes it so special .

37. What else should we know about your family background and financial status?

My family background used to be quite normal but my father had a drinking problem that made our lives quite hard . In later years my parents separated and my father actually got another wife and they had another child Enoch . Regarding our financial status , life has not been a bed of roses , I tend to see how my mother struggles to make ends meet at home . At one time , I remember seeing a message on my mother's phone since we used to share the same phone . In the message it was my aunt complaining to my mother that she was always begging for money . As a child that left a scar in me . In my highschool days , my mother was at times left to choose between who amongst her children would go to school . As I was in my final year in school , I often went to school and had my sister staying behind at home since she wouldn't be able to have us both going due to the financial situation .

# **Part 2: Short Answer and Essays**

Short Answers

The first FOUR essays are required**;** the fifth is optional. Be mindful of the 150-word limits.

1. From the activities you listed in the Part 1, choose the ONE that is most important to you and explain why. (150 words)

The most important activity I engaged in was offering my services to children home centers . Each day had a new challenge , lesson and above all a smile on an innocent child's face . I met children from all walks of life , some youngand others old . They taught me that humanity is such a beautiful thing , it all depends on what we do to others. One thing that many of them struggled with was not fitting in and I saw how my presence there inspired a renewed spark of life in them.Some of the children had HIV/AIDS and their encounter with me was life changing because I could see their radiant faces full of life regardless of their situation . From this I got that the world needs more love and happiness and I swore to make it my job to help others in need .

2. Describe a place that is important to you. Explain why this place matters. (150 words)

School was the most important place to me . I say this because I could see how school was a heaven for all students .Regardless of your background , school was a place where everyone had a fair shot at making it in life .Personally school was a place where I was relieved of stresses from home and that I only had one task to study .

Interacting with different students was also an enjoyable yet eye opening experience in life . From one student's story of life , I got to look at life through another set of lenses and it gave me hope that one day all will be well . These are but a few components that make school important because there , education cuts across everyone and all have equal opportunity to living a good life .

3. What do you hope to study at university? What is your planned career and why? Feel free to mention more than one field of study and career. Keep in mind that undergraduate education at top US universities offers many opportunities beyond the pre-professional courses that are popular in Kenya. (150 words)

I have a deep interest in biochemistry which I intend to do . Afterwards , I may do further studies in biomedical engineering and research with the aim of finding cures to major fatal diseases .

The reason as to why I intend to study this is so as to help ailing people and save lives . As a young child , I always dreamt of wearing a white coat that doctors do but as I grew up I saw that there was more to the medical field . In biomedical engineering I hope to find cures and incorporate technology further in the world of medicine .Seeing countless children and Kenyans suffer from diseases that had no cure left a scar in me that drives me to ultimately find a way to help them in the future . Through my studies I will be able to help people who need therapy and challenges such a cerebral palsy.

4. When you return from your studies in North America, what do you hope to do for your community and your country? What contribution do you hope to make? (150 words)

I intend to first join a local government health institution .From there , I will offer help to my community by educating them on issues such as FGM and teenage pregnancies . I also plan to go out of my way to work out of office and go from home to home offering health services to the needy in society . Later after establishing myself , I will open up a clinic and children's home . That the needy may live knowing there is a place to eat , sleep and rest and that someone out there cares for them . Then from the children's home I intend to network with other organizations to offer scholarships so that the children may pursue their dreams .

5. Selection for this program is very competitive, and selection for the best universities in North America is even more so. Why should we select you over other highly qualified Kenyan students? What makes you unique? Be specific – merely asserting that you are, for example, industrious or determined tells us little.

(150 words)

I would say that what makes me unique is my yearn to always help others to become the best versions of themselves. I always look at the world around me and see all the challenges that people face but still make it . This has made me very determined that no matter how hard the situation gets , there is always a way because of the drive and hope in a person .

Throughout the challenges I have faced in life , I feel like they have moulded me to be very mature and a goal-oriented person who just wants to help and spread love to others who may be facing various issues .

I know that given this chance , I will have to make a difference to my continent because I see how others make it , by starting with a dream and I have a dream .

Long essay

Tell us the story of your life – where you come from; what your home, your family and your community are like; how you grew up; how you became such a successful student; what difficulties you have had to overcome and what you hope for your future. Don’t worry about repeating material you may have mentioned in the earlier parts of this application. Be as specific and detailed as possible. And be sure that your account of your life is entirely factual. (400 – 800 words)

I was born in the heart of Rift Valley back then in 2002. I come from a loving tribe , Keiyo , in Elgeyo-marakwet where my grandparents hail from . My community is made up of outgoing , industrious individuals who are always happy and generous to others . After I was born , my family decided to move to Kapsoya in Eldoret . There we used to stay as a normal middle class family . I reminisce about the various nights we used to sleep on the floor of our living room as one big happy family . Life cascaded on well then just after I had started my nursery school is when I noticed that my father was always drunk and not at home . At my young age, probably 4 or 5 years, I remember seeing my mother struggle to provide for us because at that time she was jobless . Nights on end , my father would come home drunk and my parents would engage in a confrontation that sometimes turned physical . Only recently did my mother narrate to me the challenges she faced . When we were sick , my sister and I , for example , my father would come and go away with the money that my mother had begged from her siblings to take us to hospital . Time moved on and I managed to go to primary school . In primary school , I topped my class but this was not always like that. When I joined Northgate, I was among the last in my class. My teacher would often use the rod on me in the name of instilling knowledge in me. I remember days on end I would cry and even question God at such a young age why I was suffering in school . My mother would then motivate me with some packets of groundnuts that I used to love. She gave me this present every time I improved in my performance . This raised my courage and eventually by class 5, I retained first position till my KCPE .

On January 9 , 2017, I was taken to Kapsabet High School with my mother , quite early in the morning . I recall her words that when we arrive early it will be a beacon of success in your life . In highschool , my perspective of life changed for I could truly see all the issues that had earlier never been a challenge to me . Seeing some of my friends being bought new phones and my parent not affording it made me realize that there was more in life and that challenges were there . High School was tough because it is where I met psychological bullying, something I had not encountered before . This arose from students with whom we had different outlooks in life . At the end of my form 2, I resolved to make life better no matter what happens . From then I started offering my services to community services and participating in charity donations and collection of funds such as Mater heart Run .

What fuelled me was that I never wanted a person to experience pain that they could avoid by someone being there for them .

On the part of success , I did what every student is told to study and believe in God to guide you and that you are more than capable of defeating the challenges ahead .Also, the positive attitude I had towards my teachers and subjects aided in my good performance .

The difficulties I have passed through is that of being raised by a single mother because even though my father was there he never did anything . When his alcohol problem seemed to be diminishing he saw it right to leave my mother .This occurred while I was in form 2 and at that time I was also struggling with my own issues . I could not comprehend what was happening and especially because the other wife of my father was abusive at times towards my sister and I . However, amid all that , my mother still came through and due to her motivation and my determination, I sat for my KCSE and got 83 points . In the future I plan to major in the world of biology and medicine and become among the best biological scientist that will change Africa through my impact in helping needy children . Recently , I met a former classmate of mine with whom we studied in the same primary school.She was on the streets and when I asked her what was going on , she told me she had to run away from her home . I felt completely hopeless at that moment because she had a child and there was nothing I could do to make her life better .All I could do was give her a few shillings to push her through the day . That evening I walked home contemplating how I would help her . I told myself that through my education I would study and come back to help her because everyone deserves a chance at life . With the education that I will get I plan to make the world better for people such as Lilian , my classmate .

**Applicant Disclaimer and Signature**

I certify that the answers included in this application are both truthful and my own. I understand that the presentation of false or misleading information will lead to the disqualification of my application, and, if discovered after I am admitted to KenSAP, my expulsion from the program.

Applicant Signature:\_\_M.K\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_23 , May 2021 .\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_