



TWINNING

LASALLIANS OF NORTH AMERICA & AFRICA

Walking Together in Solidarity

ST. PAUL SECONDARY SCHOOL

MARSABIT, KENYA



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. Paul Secondary School in Marsabit, Kenya was established in 1990 with the intention of providing Christian leadership to local, Catholic young men who in return would provide leadership to the region. Currently, the school has 180 students, ages 14 to 22, enrolled in grades nine through 12. St. Paul's is known for its excellence and receives 300-500 applications from potential students for 50 available spaces.



ABOUT THE STUDENTS

The students come from nomadic communities of northern Kenya, which means they have makeshift homes near churches where women and children settle. The men—for some tribes, even women, boys and girls—generally follow animals in search of pasture and water. The families are financially poor even though some have dozens if not hundreds of animals (camels, cattle, donkeys, goats and sheep). The animals are considered to be a more prestigious form of wealth. Ninety percent of students end up with a grade average of C+, which is the minimum entry requirement for university studies. However, only about 40 percent are accepted into public universities with their average grade of B or greater. Students who aren't accepted into public universities often end up in private universities or colleges, which are considerably more expensive.



ABOUT THE TEACHERS

The school has 11 teachers, including three Brothers. Among the educators, one has a master's degree, five have bachelor's degrees, three have high school diplomas, and one has a teaching certificate.



A TYPICAL DAY AT SCHOOL

Weekdays start early for students. Morning preparations take place from 5:00 – 6:00 a.m. After cleanup, a chapel visit and breakfast, they attend an assembly at 6:45 a.m. Ten 40-minute lessons take place 7:00 a.m. – 3:20 p.m. Before lunch, students watch a news program for 30 minutes with the purpose of being informed of current events and learning English and Kiswahili. When classes conclude, students spend an hour doing service on campus, including cleaning and other chores. Following their chores, students have an hour of sports or private studies with dinner at 6:15 p.m. Night preparations take place from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. before students go to bed at 9:45 p.m. It is common for students to begin their day earlier or end later. The students have homeroom instead of an assembly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They attend Mass each Tuesday after community service. Each Thursday, they have a “family meeting” and meet with their assigned groups that include 18 students and one teacher. The weekends are less formal, although students do have scheduled study periods. Students enjoy two hours of entertainment on Saturday afternoons and one hour on Sunday afternoons.



A CHALLENGE TO STUDENTS

Most students are the only ones in their families who have gone to secondary school. The greatest challenge students face in getting an education is paying school fees, in some cases because their parents/guardians are illiterate and do not value education. Fees are about US\$800 per year, and the church provides a subsidy of US\$200 per student.



USE OF DONATIONS AND URGENT NEEDS

St. Paul's has used twinning donations to provide scholarships to students in need, increase security due to local disputes, and improve farming. The school also used donations for its silver jubilee celebration. St. Paul's has also used twinning donations to install fire extinguishers, pay student workers, and fund farming needs. Its most urgent needs are to financially support students in need, send students on field trips, and purchase furniture and equipment to create a night study space for students who live in poverty-stricken neighborhoods.



MESSAGES FROM ST. PAUL'S TO RELAN SCHOOLS

Although Principal Brother Francis Njoroge, FSC, is interested in improving the connection with twin schools in the United States, his school does not have reliable technology. He expects the area in which the school is located to soon be equipped with cable to improve connectivity.

He also invites twin schools to visit Marsabit during the summer and sends his appreciation for their generosity. "Dear brothers and sisters, for the many times you sacrifice yourself to help us, just be assured that it never goes unnoticed," writes Brother Francis. "We don't know how best to make you feel the depth of our appreciation. We continually say a prayer for you and your loved ones."



CONTACT ST. PAUL'S

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RELAN TWINNED SCHOOLS

- Christian Brothers Academy
Albany, New York
- Christian Brothers College High School
St. Louis, Missouri
- De La Salle Collegiate Institute
Warren, Michigan
- La Salle High School
Union Gap, Washington
- La Salle School
Albany, New York
- St. Patrick High School
Chicago, Illinois
- St. Paul's School
Covington, Louisiana

