

STILL TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY

UPDATES FROM BISRATE GABRIEL SCHOOL, DIRE DAWA



TWINNING
LASALLIANS OF NORTH AMERICA & AFRICA
Walking Together in Solidarity



STATUS

Bisrate Gabriel School reopened in November 2020 and started with revision classes for 45 days for students in grades eight and 12 since they would take the regional and national exams, respectively. Over the course of several weeks, the government allowed more students to begin attending classes, with all students back in classrooms by mid-November. Bisrate Gabriel is teaching students in shifts.



PRECAUTIONS



The school is taking a number of safety precautions to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. In September, the whole compound and each classroom were sprayed with chemicals that were recommended by the ministry of health. The school has made available water and soap for everyone who enters the school grounds. Sanitizer is also available in the offices and staff rooms. The government initially provided face masks for students, but they only lasted about a week due to quality. So, parents are responsible for providing masks for students.



FINANCIAL IMPACT

The school, its students and their families are struggling financially due to COVID-19. When the government initially shut down schools last year, schools had to reduce tuition fees to 75% while continuing to pay its workers 100%. Most parents have not fully paid tuition and are asking that tuition not be charged. Some students have moved to public school without paying past due tuition fees, while others are back at Bisrate Gabriel but not able to pay. The school is working with parents on finding solutions.



DONATIONS

Bisrate Gabriel's greatest need is for donations to cover the increasing demand for scholarships. It also needs donations to buy books for the library and materials for the laboratories. The school would also like to provide pay raises and Lasallian formation workshops for teachers and staff.

MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL

Brother Teye Weldesenbet, FSC, became principal of Bisrate Gabriel School in the fall of 2020. He previously served at the school. He can be reached at twwsodeno1982@gmail.com.