



# DARAJA ACADEMY

## Cultivating the Power of Personal Potential

### QUICK FACTS

- Nanyuki, Kenya; Four hours northwest of the capital city of Nairobi.
- The secondary school has 26 girls in each class. Ages range from 14-19 years old.
- Admissions are based on a girl's personal and financial situation, eighth grade examination scores, academic grades and interview.
- 100% of teachers are Kenyan with higher educational degrees. School maintains a 1:13 ratio of teachers to students.
- A computer lab has given the girls access to technology that will prepare them for college or the workforce.
- The academy has partnered with GROOTS, a globally renowned grassroots female leadership program, to implement a leadership curriculum.



**Our Philosophy:** Daraja Academy believes change occurs in a developing country through the people themselves. This boarding secondary school has been established to provide Kenyan girls the tools to create change and become the country's future leaders.

**Not your typical school:** Our innovative educational model provides students a way to channel their brilliance and their intellectual growth. In addition to a demanding academic curriculum, the school instills:

#### *Women's Empowerment*

- **Women of Integrity, Strength and Hope (WISH) class:** This class focuses on empowering girls who have been impacted by issues including domestic or sexual abuse, being orphaned by AIDS or the to pressure to marry early. The course additionally focuses on key preventative measures such as sex education. WISH works to encourage the girls to share their stories and rebuild their sense of inner self-worth.
- **Grassroots Girls Club:** This club shows how to create grassroots change through applied knowledge in working with local communities on projects focused on everything from environmentalism to women's business issues to volunteerism.

#### *Cross-Cultural Education*

- **Tribal Diversity:** In a country with a history of tribal violence, Daraja makes a point of accepting girls from various tribes in order to build bridges and break misconceptions.
- **Global Relationships:** To familiarize the girls with other cultures and generate a global perspective, the academy hosts international visitors who eat meals, host workshops and participate in activities with the students.

#### *Social and Environmental Responsibility*

- **Local Student Enrollment and Local Employment:** The academy makes a point of enrolling local students and hiring local workers.
- **Permaculture Methods:** Due to growing environmental issues such as deforestation, sustainable methods such as composting, bee keeping, agroforestry and organic gardening are used.

#### *Personal and Career Development*

- **Counseling:** A licensed counselor helps students deal with emotional issues that accompany their difficult home life situations, helping students stay focused.
- **Internships:** In the students' 3rd and 4th years at Daraja, each student will choose a profession and intern in their chosen fields.

Donate. Fundraise. Volunteer. This project started as a school and has evolved into a movement. Daraja advocates like you help it grow. Daraja means bridge, and YOU are Daraja. Contact us at [info@daraja-academy.org](mailto:info@daraja-academy.org) or visit [www.daraja-academy.org](http://www.daraja-academy.org).