



Where Talent Meets Opportunity

Overview

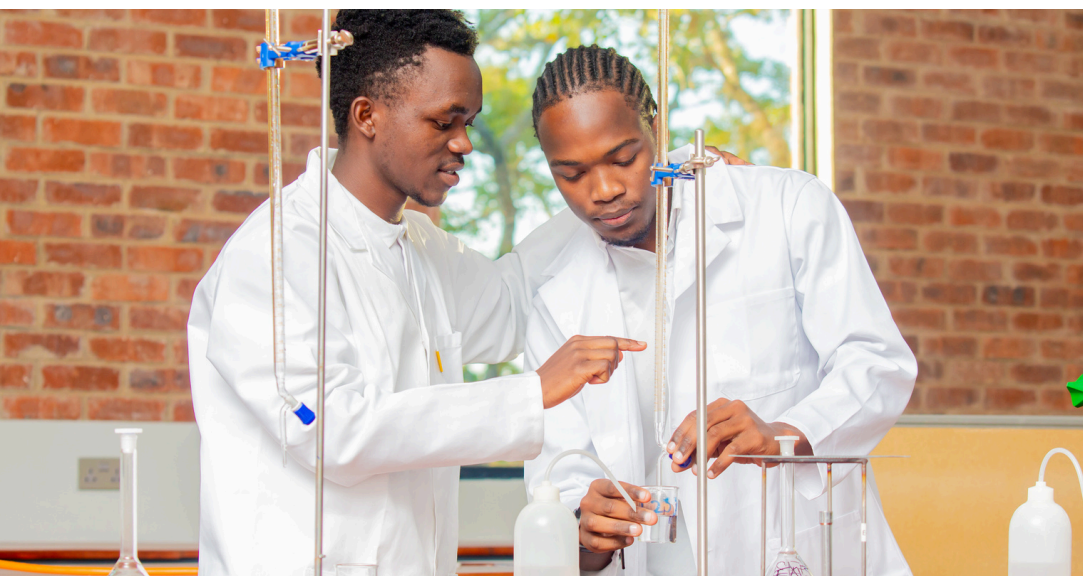
The USAP Community School, a program of Education Matters, is a non-profit Quaker boarding high school in Zimbabwe that seeks to educate the brightest students who would otherwise not have access to a quality education. The school opened in January 2020 and was founded out of the United Students Achievers Program (USAP), a college access program that has helped nearly a thousand high-achieving, low-income Zimbabwean students gain access to higher education globally since 2000. At the heart of the school are our four core values of **integrity, equality, service and curiosity**, which emerge from our Quaker tradition. These values are embedded into our Honor Code which governs life at school, creating a strong school culture of trust and mutual respect without the need for hierarchies or an extensive disciplinary system. **Our first three classes who graduated in 2021-2023 and have received over \$20 million in scholarships to universities around the world.** In May 20204, we moved to our newly built beautiful campus set on 93 hectares of miombo woodland.

Admissions

Admission to USAP Community School is highly selective. Over 650 students applied to join the Class of 2025, and 45 (less than 7%) were admitted. Students are chosen through a nationwide selection process designed to make applying accessible even for those from rural areas, in the refugee camp or with poor network coverage. Selection is based on USAP's founding criteria of **academic excellence, demonstrated leadership potential, an ethos of giving, and economic disadvantage**. We actively seek students without options to continue their education. Every application is read by at least two USAP alumni, with 120+ finalists participating in in-person interviews with the Director and faculty, and writing math, science, writing and analytical reasoning assessments. Our students come from high-density urban townships, small towns and rural villages as well as from the Tongogara Refugee Camp, originally from the DRC, Burundi and Rwanda. We are a need-blind school and 100% of our students receive need-based financial aid ranging from 90-100% of the cost of our education, and similarly need full financial aid to be able to access college education.

Extracurricular Activities

Students are participate in a wide variety of clubs and sports which include: Archery, Cross Country, Soccer, Volleyball, USAPella, Creatives (art), Piano, Drama, Mbira, Marimba, Traditional Dance, Robotics, Model United Nations, First Aid, Chess and Media Club. In the Quaker tradition, we do not have prefects or Headboys/Headgirls, but instead our clubs have conveners who assist faculty to convene and operate the clubs rather than captains, presidents or other positions of authority.



School Profile 2024-2025

USAP Community School,
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Ellen Mutambara Mapiko

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100% of Class of 2021 & 2022
accepted into College
with full financial aid

Class of 2024 At a Glance

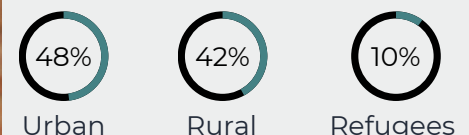
580 Applications Received

31 Admission Offers

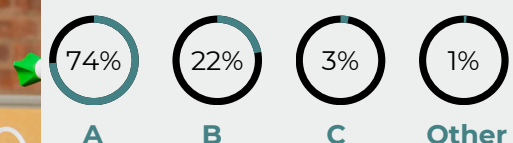
100% Of Students on Need
Based Financial Aid

 **16** Girls
 **15** Boys

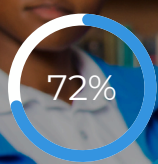
Student Background



O Level Results



Class of 2024 Cambridge AS Level Results



A



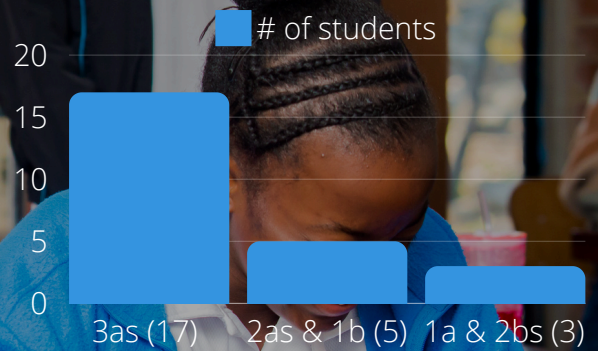
B



C



Other



Academics

Our academic program aims to prepare students for admission to, and success in, the world's top universities - to help them develop habits of rigor, curiosity, and empathy as they grapple with important debates in their communities, country, and the world to live a life of purpose and impact. To achieve these goals, we have fused a Cambridge A Level STEM curriculum with a liberal arts grounding. Each student is required to take three A Level science courses, rounded out by a Humanities class that guides students through a series of explorations into themes such as justice, power, colonialism, and religious diversity and a Computer class helps them build technological literacy and learn a coding language. Following our mission, our curriculum teaches students to apply knowledge in order to impact societal change through a qualitative and quantitative Research Methods class that leads to a full year Capstone research project centered on a problem they have identified in their community.

Standardized Testing

USAP students write three Cambridge AS and A level Exams which show their competence at a high level in Math and Science subjects. All students write the Duolingo English Test to demonstrate English proficiency.

They do not have access to write SAT or ACT Tests. There are significant cost and technology barriers to writing these American standardized tests in Zimbabwe, and we strongly feel these tests do not represent our students' abilities and achievements nor predict their potential.

Work Program

We believe that to teach students the value of work and service in a community, we should live this ethos as a school community. Students and faculty do the work necessary to maintain our school community; all are assigned a specific job that leads to a clean, well maintained and efficient school. Jobs range from maintaining the library to sweeping and mopping classrooms to overseeing all school tech, to caring for the school dog.

Health and Welfare

We organize our school into Advisory Groups, composed of 7-8 students, a TA and a faculty member that meet weekly over lunch, giving our school community a family feel. Advisors keep close contact with their advisees to check on their academic progress, their health and their mental and emotional well-being. Our Peer Support Program provides a first line of counseling.

University Destinations of the Classes of 2021-23

ALA, Rwanda	Carleton College, MN	Lander University, SC (3)	University of Connecticut, CT (2)
Amherst College, MA	Claremont McKenna, CA	MIT, MA	University of Missouri, MO
Ashesi University, Ghana (18)	College of Wooster, OH	Middlebury College, VT	University of Penn, PA (2)
Ashoka University, India (4)	Dartmouth College, NH (3)	Northwestern University, IL (4)	Vanderbilt University, TN
Barnard College, NY	Davidson College, NC	NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE (3)	Warren Wilson College, NC (3)
Bates College, ME	Guilford College, NC (2)	Oberlin College, OH	Wesleyan University, CT (2)
Berea College, KY	Grinnell College, IA	Pomona College, CA (2)	Williams College, MA (2)
Bowdoin College, ME	Harvard University, MA (3)	Smith College, MA	Vassar College, NY
Brown University, RI (2)	Haverford College, PA (2)	Stanford University, CA (2)	Wilmington College, OH (4)
California Institute of Tech, CA	KNUST Ghana	USIU Kenya (18)	Yale University

**Parentheses indicate multiple students attending; all admissions offers include full need- based financial aid