



School Update: Teaching Through Covid

When we last wrote, back in April, we had just transitioned our school to online learning as Covid-19 started to disrupt education across the world. Now in early September, we have finished Term 2 of our year online, and are into Term 3. With Covid cases continuing to spread in Zimbabwe, we are planning to carry on with online instruction through the end of the year, though it would be a welcome surprise if schools in Zimbabwe are allowed to resume classes in person before then.

Though the mode of learning changed, progress continues. Our A-levels classes are on schedule with their syllabus, and we feel confident that our students will be prepared to write exams and apply to university next year. This is thanks to our teachers and students, who made the transition to online teaching quickly, moving ahead despite limited resources and unreliable internet connections. Teachers have been producing instructional videos and sending them to students using WhatsApp, who download and watch them during scheduled class time each day. Faculty are also available online to answer questions about the content and help students with their work. Students, meanwhile, have leaned into the independent learning that is necessary to succeed in this format. Despite busy home lives, they schedule their days around classes, troubleshoot network and technology issues, stay up late to complete assignments, and time themselves on assessments under the guidance of our Honor Code.

We have also managed to maintain the strong community that we built during our first term in session. Whether it is continuing with our school roll call tradition, sending around chains of happy birthday texts on WhatsApp, or serializing an audio book to be read to the whole school, we have found ways to interact even while we aren't together. And as you will see in the next section, the students have taken advantage of this time at home to complete service projects in their communities, many of which are ongoing and have had significant impact. Though we hope to resume again in person soon, we are proud of how our community has responded during this challenging time.

Read on for more recent developments at USAP Community School, as well as an announcement about the USAP program's 20th anniversary celebration.



USAPCS student Noanah Malati (right) leads a chess club for children in her neighborhood

Research Methods Helps Students Make the Most of Being Home

Research Methods is an original USAPCS class that is designed to teach students a wide variety of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and enable them to apply these methodologies to solve challenges facing their communities. When COVID19 necessitated closing our school and moving classes to remote learning, we took advantage of our students being home over a prolonged period of time to undertake projects to apply the research methods our students were learning to real life situations in their homes and communities. Students have completed three projects in our Research Methods class this term - a service learning project, oral history of an elderly relative or neighbor and a quantitative survey with data analysis. Their service learning projects ranged from starting home gardens to tutoring younger siblings and children in the community, starting COVID19 Zimbabwe WhatsApp awareness groups to clearing overgrown paths and establishing a cleaning program for community toilets.

The oral history projects had each student have multiple meetings with an elderly person in their community and listen to their life stories. The students really enjoyed getting to know people they often had been around their whole life, but had never taken the time before to really listen to. They came away with a newfound understanding of individual's perspectives on Zimbabwean history and culture. During our data analysis unit, each student designed a short questionnaire and surveyed at least 50 people, before analyzing the data for trends and results. Many surveys queried the impact of COVID19 lockdown on the livelihoods and every day struggles of people in their community.

Research Methods class will culminate in each student undertaking a capstone research project in their second and final year at our school. Their real life experiences with applying a variety of methods to research real life problems facing their families and communities will better equip USAPCS students to continue to apply their education to solving both local and global challenges.



USAP Community School in the News

We are fortunate to have been featured in several news outlets recently. The [Brown Alumni Magazine featured Rebecca Zeigler Mano](#), one of our co-founders, talking about how her time at Brown inspired her to work with high-achieving, low-income students. [Rebecca was also on the PilotEd podcast](#), hosted by Kyra Kellawan.

Finally, USAP Alum and Board of Trustees member [Ru Nyambuya was featured on the BsquaredC podcast](#) two weeks ago. Check them out to hear more about the inspiration behind the school, and some of the people who are making it happen.



20ForUSAP@20

On September 20, we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the USAP program. To mark the occasion, our friends around the world - students, faculty, trustees, donors, supporters and more - will be walking, running or cycling 20 minutes, 20 kilometers, or 20 miles, with many of them raising money for the effort. Please see the photo below for more information about how to participate, or support the school in continuing the USAP tradition for the next 20 years.

20ForUSAP@20

Run/Walk/Cycle

Sept. 20, 2020



Campaign Fundraising Is Live on CauseVox!

Help us *reach your network* and raise funds for the USAP Community School, Zimbabwe, leading up to our virtual event on **September 20, 2020**.

Here are the **next steps**:

STEP 1: REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE

Choose your 20ForUSAP@20 here:

<https://forms.gle/t1vvPDVqcpr622A9>

STEP 2: JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Sign up for a Personal Fundraising Page at:

<https://20forusap20.causevox.com/signup>

STEP 3: SHARE!

Reach your network to support our campaign.

Use campaign tags:

#20ForUSAP20 #USAPRuns #USAPWalks #USAPCycles

#USAPRocks #AfricaFitForPurpose #AfricaEducation



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STEP 4: DONATE

Make your contribution to an existing team or to the main fundraising page here:

<https://20forusap20.causevox.com/>

Resources:

About CauseVox

<https://www.causevox.com/>

CauseVox is a digital fundraising platform where supporters can create individual or team pages to contribute towards a global campaign goal.

Create a Personal Fundraising Page

<https://support.causevox.com/>

Detailed instructions for setting up your personal fundraising page can be found here.

Join USAP Runs on Strava!

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/usapruns>

With runners, walkers, bikers, yogis, movers and shakers, you're guaranteed to get hyped!



Donate to USAP's 20th Anniversary Campaign



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