



School Update: Learning in Lockdown

With Zimbabwe in the midst of its third wave of Covid cases, fueled by the Delta variant, schools are unfortunately closed across the country once again. As before, students have continued their studies with WhatsApp-based lessons as they prepare for their Cambridge exams in October. Amazingly, our first graduating class of students will graduate in December having now spent the majority of their time at USAP Community School learning over WhatsApp as a result of Covid. From any perspective, the results that they have achieved on their Cambridge AS exams are very strong, but viewed through the disruptions of Covid, they are extraordinary.

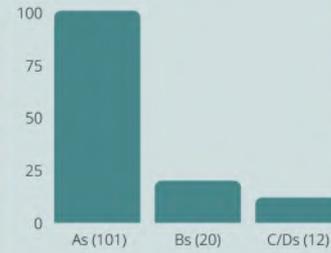
While at home, our students and staff have taken the opportunity to get vaccinated and spread awareness about the vaccine in their communities. In spite of a delayed introduction of Covid vaccines into Zimbabwe, 77% of our school community has now had at least one dose of the vaccine. We look forward to having nearly our entire school fully vaccinated when we are able to return to in-person instruction.

Even during these lockdowns, we have found creative ways to continue with our extracurricular activities. Several cross country runners use Strava to post their runs each week. Meanwhile, our a capella group made virtual submissions to the Eisteddfod music competition, with both a soloist and our full group receiving honours marks. And one of our Upper 6 students, Melisa, took home a 1st grade in the National Allied Arts festival for her prose submission.

Much remains to look forward to for the rest of this year. We have started the admissions process to find 45 new students, who will begin their USAP Community School journey in January. Our first class will take their A-level exams in October, and they submit university applications. And of course, their graduation in December will mark the first full cycle of our school. We look forward to returning soon to in-person learning and celebrating all of these milestones together.



Our first Cambridge AS results are out for the 45 students in the first class of the USAP Community School. We are so proud of this achievement during these challenging COVID times of remote learning. 27 students got all three A's and 7 more got 2 A's and one B.



Thank you to the 2020-2021 Teaching Assistants!

We would like to extend a thank you to our TAs as they leave the USAP Community School and head off to university this fall. We wish them all the best!

[Meet the TAs](#) (listed in image order, left to right)

Danai Mandebvu - Humanities TA, Hope College '25

Tanyaradzwa Chisepo - Biology TA, Simon Fraser University '25

Langelihle Siziba - Math TA, Harvard University '25

Peter Tizora - Physics TA, Rice University '25

Glenn Tachera - Chemistry TA, Brown University '25



USAP Community School in the News

We are fortunate to have been featured in several news outlets recently. The British Broadcasting Channel (BBC) featured a USAPCS student and Rebecca Zeigler Mano, one of our co-founders, on the [Coronavirus Conversations: Education World Service Episode](#) talking about their experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic, and its impact on the education of young people. Rebecca was also one of three Stanford University Graduate School of Education graduates honored with the [Alumni Excellence Education Award](#).

Check out the hyperlinks above to hear more about the student experience during lockdown and remote learning, and to learn more about some of the people making it happen.



TWEENS Update

The TWEENS project is a peer tutoring project run by and benefiting refugee students at the Tongogara Refugee Camp. TWEENS (Together We Educationally Empower Non-privileged Students) began as a service learning project initiated by several of the USAP Community School refugee students last year during the first Zimbabwean lockdown. Recently, the Tweens team organized the distribution of solar lamps to girls in the camp in order to make evening studying in safety of their homes possible (pictured). We are extremely grateful to the Naledi Foundation for their support that made this possible.

Tweens has grown from 11 tutors and 55 tutees in 2020, to 30 tutors and 210 tutees in 2021. One of the barriers the program faced was having a safe space for tutors and tutees to meet and to host study sessions. [Agathe Mwehu, a refugee student and USAP alum, currently enrolled at Wheaton College won a Projects for Peace award](#) and with the prize has begun construction on a building for TWEENS programming. The team has been working very hard in taking the necessary steps to ensure that the renovations are completed and the student center is ready to be launched in a month or two from now.

TWEENS will continue to host extracurricular activities such as chess, debate club and public

speaking, organize and facilitate awareness campaigns on COVID19, as well as be a clearinghouse of scholarship information. We are eternally grateful to our donors for their generosity that has made this possible.



Second Annual USAP Run/Walk/Cycle

This September, we will be celebrating the 21st anniversary of the USAP program. The Second Annual USAP Run/Walk/Cycle on September 18 and 19 will mark the occasion, as our friends around the world - students, faculty, trustees, donors, supporters and more - will be walking, running or cycling 21 minutes, 21 kilometers, or 21 miles, with many of them raising money towards building the [USAP Community School](#). You can join us by registering to participate [here](#) or by supporting participants. Please see the photo below for more information about how to participate, or support the school in continuing the USAP tradition for the next 21 years.

SECOND ANNUAL USAP Run/Walk/Cycle



Jul. 17 - Sep. 19
2021



CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING IS LIVE!

Help us *reach your network* and raise funds for the USAP Community School, Zimbabwe, during our event and campaign period from **July 17 to September 19, 2021**.

Here are the next steps:

STEP 1: REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE

Register and create your personal fundraising page here:

[Education Matters: 2nd Annual USAP Run/Walk/Cycle \(enthuse.com\)](#)

STEP 2: DONATE

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

[Education Matters: 2nd Annual USAP Run/Walk/Cycle \(enthuse.com\)](#)

STEP 3: SHARE

Reach your network to support our campaign. Use hashtags:

#USAPRuns #USAPWalks #USAPCycles #USAPRocks #AfricaFitForPurpose #AfricaEducation

STEP 4: START YOUR ACTIVITY!

Activities will be recorded between Aug. 29 and Sep. 19.

Resources

Create a Personal Fundraising Page

<https://enthuse.com/blog/product-news/set-up-online-fundraising-page/>

Enthuse is a digital donation platform that helps individuals and organizations strengthen supporter relationships.

Resources

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 21st Anniversary Campaign



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