



USAP Community School is a residential 11th and 12th grade school that educates high-achieving, low-income Zimbabwean students to excel at the world's top universities and return home to build society.

Overview: The USAP Community School, a program of Education Matters Africa Foundation, is a non-profit boarding high school that seeks to educate the brightest Zimbabwean students who would otherwise not have access to a quality education. The school opened in January 2020 and is founded out of the United Students Achievers Program (USAP), a college access program that has helped high-achieving, low-income Zimbabwean students reach higher education globally for twenty years. At the heart of the school are our four core values of integrity, equality, service and curiosity, which come from our Quaker tradition and frame our Honor Code. Our values-based education is grounded in a rigorous Cambridge A level curriculum that supplements top-level science instruction with a humanities core and training in reasoning and research methods. Students also commit to a variety of extracurricular activities and service projects to round out their education and prepare them for success at university and beyond.

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Background: The United Students Achievers Program (USAP) was founded in 1999 by Rebecca Zeigler Mano to give talented but economically disadvantaged students access to education at the world’s top universities. Since then, the USAP program has helped over 450 students gain access to top colleges and universities around the world, including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Smith, Columbia, Pomona, Brown, MIT, Edinburgh, University of British Columbia, Ashesi, and many more. Alums have gone on to complete advanced degrees, earn Rhodes and Gates Cambridge scholarships, and start successful businesses and organizations.

USAP Community School at a glance	
School operating budget (2020, USD)	\$238,853
Annual cost per student (long-term)	\$3,500
Tuition per student (2020)	\$115
Average scholarship (2020)	98%
Applications received (Class of 2021)	450
Students admitted	46
Yield	98%
% urban / rural / refugee camp	62 / 31 / 7
Average subjects taken at O level	10.9
% of O level grade A / B / C	76 / 22 / 2

Why USAP Community School? As our program has evolved, we realize that our students, though bright and determined, are receiving an exam-based education that is not adequately preparing them to tackle the complex problems of building our society. Although they are excelling on O and A level exams, their reading, writing, research, computer and critical thinking skills are lacking.

Community: As a residential school, the strength of our community is as important as our academic program. Our students come from all across Zimbabwe, as well as a few from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, who fled those countries at an early age and have grown up in the Tongogara Refugee Camp. Our inaugural class of 45 was chosen from over 450 applicants, with a 98% yield rate of admitted students. Every student at the school is on a need-based scholarship covering approximately 98% of the cost of attendance.

Curriculum: Our academics aim to prepare students for admission to, and success in, the world’s top universities. But merely passing students onto the next level is not enough. We want a curriculum that helps students develop habits of rigor, curiosity, and empathy as they grapple with important debates in their communities, country, and the world. To achieve this, we have fused a Cambridge A Level science curriculum with a liberal arts grounding.

Subject	Credits
Chemistry	4
Mathematics	4
Biology or Physics	4
Humanities	3.5
Research Methods (Y1 only)	1.5
Capstone (Y2 only)	1.5
Reasoning	1.5
Computers	1.5

Each student is required to take three A level sciences, where they are pushed with both rigorous theoretical detail and thorough practical understanding. The core subjects are rounded out by a humanities class that guides students through a series of explorations into themes such as justice, power, race, religion and difference. Students also take a research methods class, which combines in-class work with service that they do in their home communities during school breaks, and prepares them to write a capstone paper during their final year at the school. And finally, a reasoning class sharpens their logical and analytical thinking skills, and a computer class helps them build computer literacy.

Build with Us: We are currently fundraising and will be building our final campus in 2021. To support the school, or find out more, please visit us on the web at www.usapschool.org or email info@usapschool.org.