

## Meet Harriet Mwanza



**Harriet Mwanza**

### Profile

<b>Name</b>	Harriet Mwanza
<b>Birthday</b>	October 19, 2000
<b>Birth Place</b>	Lusaka, Zambia
<b>Area of Residence</b>	Garden
<b>Mother's Name</b>	Anne Mwanza
<b>Mother's Profession</b>	Maid
<b>Primary School</b>	Simon Mwanza Kapwepwe
<b>Secondary School</b>	Pestalozzi Education Centre
<b>2018 Grade Level</b>	Grade 11

### Harriet's Family

Harriet's mother and father divorced when Harriet was still a baby. Harriet lives with her mother, brother and cousin in the Garden compound of Lusaka. Her mother, Maureen, works as a maid at the nearby community school. With rent consuming 450 kwacha per month and no other business income, finances are very tight at home. The biggest challenges the mother faces are school fees and supplies, house rental, and providing enough food. The family eats only twice a day.

### Harriet's Educational Background

#### *Grade 8*

Harriet got off to an excellent start in her academics at Pestalozzi. In Term I, she received 541 points out of 600, which made her the second-best student in Grade 8. In Term II, Harriet proved her outstanding Term I performance was no fluke, again finishing in position two with 501 points. Harriet says that her favorite subjects are business studies, math, and science because "they require a lot of time to research and study, which I really enjoy." In Term III, Harriet scored 514 points, improving her results even further.

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## *Grade 9*

In the first term of her grade nine exams, Harriet got 496 out of 600. These results position her among the top three in her class. However, she reported having challenges in Business Studies and English language. In Term II, Harriet scored 479 points. In her Grade 9 National Exam, she scored an impressive 462 points.

## *Grade 10*

In Term I, Harriet scored 487 points, improving her scores in mathematics and English significantly from her midterm to her final exams. She missed her End of Term exams during Term II, because she was travelling for the Women in Science STEAM Camp, so she had to write those exams when she returned from Malawi. Despite a hectic week of exams and less-than-ideal study conditions, Harriet did well in Term II, earning 486 points. Her favorite subjects during Grade 10 have been biology and chemistry, because they help describe the world around her. She also particularly enjoys English because of the stories it enables her to read.

## **Harriet's Extracurricular Interests**

Harriet is a member of the waste management and Scripture Union clubs at Pestalozzi. In the waste management club, students take care of Pestalozzi's environment by sorting out waste into separate bins for recycling companies to come pick up the school's paper, plastic, and bottles. Scripture Union is a Christian-based club where students meet to sing worship songs and share Bible verses. For exercise, Harriet occasionally does aerobics with other girls after school.

Harriet also takes part in netball and football. In Term II of 2016, they had Inter-Grade netball competitions and Harriet's grade came out second out of five grades. In her spare time, Harriet enjoys writing and performing poetry. She has also been learning chess, which she feels requires people to use their brain to develop good planning skills in order to predict outcomes.

Harriet was very excited to have been accepted and fully sponsored to participate in the WiSci Girls STEAM Camp in Malawi August 2017, which brought together high school girls from the African continent and the United States to work together to enhance their STEAM skills, craft their leadership potential, and build camaraderie and networks. After the STEAM Camp, Harriet applied for and was awarded a grant to begin a club for women's empowerment in STEAM at her school. Through the club, she has begun to teach other young women about getting involved in STEAM and hopes to spread the lessons of the club to other local secondary schools, as well.

## **Harriet's KF Involvement**

During the term holidays, Harriet involves herself with community service at Beit Cure Hospital where she volunteers in the accounts department, assisting in the filing and sorting of patient records. She also volunteers at a church and assists a Sunday school teacher in making lesson plans and teaching young children about the environment and God. She organizes the children that she teaches for different activities. She faces challenges such as

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disobedience and unwillingness to learn but when she does manage to teach them, she feels they accept, understand and apply what she teaches. Harriet is learning how to interact with young children, building trust and confidence amongst herself and her peers.

During the December 2016 holiday, Harriet did her Work Experience at Dynamic Physical Therapy, which is fitting, because one of the careers she hopes to hold in the future is in physical therapy. Over her two-week placement, she learned much about the field as a whole and what it takes to be a physical therapist on a day-to-day basis. She reported having enjoyed the experience thoroughly.

For the 2018 school year, Harriet will serve as the editor of the termly KF Newsletter. She looks forward to helping compile the stories of her fellow students for all those invested in KF to see.

## **Harriet's Thoughts**

While in Grade 8, Harriet made it her goal to go to the UK for university study once she finishes high school. In the future, she wants to be “one of the best physiotherapists in our country,” and especially work to inspire children with disabilities to succeed in life. Harriet is determined to achieve this goal, and is willing to work hard to do it. Harriet believes that she is growing socially because of the activities she engages herself in such as crafts making and writing and reciting poems. Harriet's family is benefiting from the KF scholarship because their expenses have been reduced. She has set goals for herself such as maintaining academic excellence, continuing with her project, being more confident and social, and learning to draw very well.

Harriet has a high level of emotional maturity, and as a result, she spends a lot of time taking care of those around her. She often serves as a sounding board for her friends and fellow KF students, supporting others when they are going through difficult times or things are going on at home. She recognizes the importance of relationships and finds it extremely important to prioritize people in her life.