

Our Voices

SPECIAL GRADE EIGHT EDITION



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Meet the 2022 KF Grade Cohort

At the end of 2021, the Kucetekela Foundation carried out the recruitment project. 25 partner schools were identified as potential places where the 10 earmarked students could be drawn from. Over 150 grade seven students were interviewed in the group interview stage. Out of these, 30 were selected to take the KF exam. Of the 30 that sat for the KF exam, the top 15 students were invited for further interviews with their parents. Of the top 15, the outstanding schools included Mount Makulu Primary School, St. Lawrence Primary School, Jesus Army Primary School and Lotus Primary School. Finally, 6 students were selected to be on the KF scholarship starting in 2022.

The students picked for the KF scholarship are: Clariss Mwape, Thawanda Neba, Francis Siboli, Nelly Makondo, Catherine Mumbi and Jackson Banda. The students exhibited great academic aptitude and a wide range of talents such as singing, poetry, sports, public speaking and leadership.

In this issue, we get a brief insight about these students who have huge potential to achieve great things in years to come and welcome them to the KF family.

Happy Reading!

Meet Clariss Mwape



My vision for secondary school was very broad but vivid. Besides academics, I envisioned making and maintaining long lasting friendships, participating in different recreational activities and serving as a leader in school. This desire has been made possible by Kucetekela Foundation that has enrolled me at an exceptional school, Chalo Trust.

My transition from primary to secondary school has made me realize important things about myself. The fact that I'm in boarding school means I need to be more responsible by knowing when it's time to study, play and attend to personal needs. To help me keep up with time, I developed a personal timetable for daily activities.

An interesting thing about secondary school is that we have different teachers for each subject as opposed to primary school where we had one teacher for all subjects. Having

multiple teachers has opened up my mind to different approaches and strategies. In my Science class, we usually have group discussions and assignments that really push us to research.

Secondary school has also been an opportunity to network and create friendships. For instance, I have two good friends whom I study with and we attend church programs together. I have also joined clubs where I have partners who assist me with developing projects such as those in the Junior Engineers Technicians and Scientists (JETS) club. My goal is to create more meaningful friendships that will last even after graduation.

One of the things I have loved about moving to secondary school is participating in several extracurricular activities. I'm a part of the art and poetry clubs which are helping me improve my public speaking skills. I could not wait to join the volleyball, basketball and netball teams that do trainings every Thursday. Being a part of these activities has taught me the value of team work and leadership.

In the next term, my target is to do exceedingly well in every area i.e. academics, extracurricular activities and social interactions. I want to be an outstanding student in everything I do and to become a role model to my family and friends.

Without Kucetekela Foundation, being in secondary school and not to talk of a great and wonderful school would have been a mere dream. I saw myself in high school but did not know the means to get there. I'm among the few students with an advantage to make the world a better place through

education. This is just the beginning of my journey and I will make it worthwhile by actively taking part in all KF activities.

Meet Thawanda Neba



My name is Thawanda Neba and I'm the second born in a family of four. I have always wanted to set the best example for my siblings by striving for the best. This was evident even in the KF recruitment process where I rendered my full dedication to make sure I got the scholarship.

Getting to be part of KF has not been an easy journey. When I first heard of the program, it sounded too good to be true. I had never come across any program that would sponsor students to great schools and offer so much emotional, social and academic support. I did my best to prepare prior to the group interview. Much as I was nervous, not getting the scholarship was not an option. I tried by all means to suppress my fear by responding to all the questions asked. I thought this was all to getting the scholarship but to my surprise there were several other stages ahead.

I panicked when my mother informed me about the exams to be written at Chalo Trust School in order to progress to the next level. At this point my honest expression made my mom a little worried. I panicked on what to expect or whether I would make it. The encouragement from my mother gave me assurance that I could make it. Even with many other students competing for the same scholarship, I still saw myself as a victor and gave the exam all I could.

Guess what! I had made it to the next stage of the scholarship. My family was so thrilled and did everything possible to make my selection sure. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the KF staff could not come to my house for the family interviews, instead we were invited to their office. My mother who works as a domestic worker had to create time for this important moment. I was very nervous but one thing for sure was to leave a good impression thereafter. They interviewed my mother and I on a number of things and we were careful to respond to all questions. I remember being asked why I wanted the scholarship. With all wonderful things talked about KF, financial aid was not the only thing the organization would offer me. My desire has been to study abroad after secondary school and KF was just an answer to that.

We were told that finalists would be selected based on the overall assessment. The home interview stage was one I was very much sure of scoring high marks because we had a thorough preparation. Later in the year mom received a phone call that I had made it for the scholarship and we were again invited to the office but this time around to be oriented. I was overjoyed with this news and looked forward to attending high school at one of the best schools in Zambia.

I'm now at my dream school learning new subjects, engaging in extracurricular activities and making new friends. Having a feel of boarding life has been the best experience. I have learnt to be more responsible and open minded. My favorite subject is Math which I plan on getting better through regular practice. For extracurricular activities, I enjoy soccer and hope to join the school team in the coming term.

My gratitude goes to Kucetekela Foundation for making my dream of attending high school at a great institution a reality. My desire is to be the best version of myself and become a role model to my family and community.

Meet Francis Siboli



I never imagined myself in an organization like Kucetekela Foundation because of the stiff competition. When the staff members from KF visited my school for the interviews, I was filled with so much confidence because the number of students nominated was much smaller. Later on I learnt that my primary school, Kapwelyomba was among the many schools competing for the same opportunity.

In the back of my mind was a thought that I was competing against other intelligent students with unique abilities. During the interviews, I tried to be as authentic as possible to sell myself for this priceless scholarship.

A few weeks later, my guardians received a call that I had made it to the next round. This did not come as a surprise because I had done exceptionally well in the interviews.

The next step was writing an exam at Chalo Trust School. I must admit the exams were very tough such that all hopes of moving forward were completely shattered. At that time mixed feelings overwhelmed me. I was afraid of not making it but at the same time was happy to have had an experience of going through the recruitment process.

My uncle broke the good news to me that I had made it to the family interview stage. Not only did I pass the exam but emerged second. I knelt down and thanked God for this life changing moment but it was also sad because my other nominated friends did not make it.

My family and I were later invited for the interview at the KF office. I was very nervous such that I omitted answering some questions. There were some new faces among the interviewers and somehow this made me feel very timid. After the interview, I became very emotional because I thought a very important scholarship had slipped through my hands.

A month later Kucetekela Foundation communicated and mentioned that I had made it for the scholarship. This was the happiest moment of my life. I had every reason to celebrate this success. My uncle who has been my role model explained to me more about the organization and the two schools that the students could be taken to. I became so excited to start high school and time to the opening day seemed to be dragging.

After orientation, I enrolled at Chalo Trust School and began my high school journey. I'm enjoying learning many new subjects particularly Business, Computer and Agricultural Studies. In terms of extracurricular activities, I'm into soccer and clubs. I took part in a Junior Engineers Technicians and Scientists (JETS) competition where I was the team leader and my group came out second. I also won two tournaments in chess.

Being part of Kucetekela Foundation is opening me to many great opportunities meant to shape my life. I have been hearing of high school programs such as the Yale Young Global Scholars (YYGS) and the Yale Young African Scholars (YYAS) which I look forward to taking part in. Thank you for this amazing opportunity.

Meet Nelly Makondo



I come from the Mount Makulu area where I have spent seven years but at no point did I hear of an NGO that sponsors vulnerable children who are academically excellent. I only found out when my Science teacher came into our class to take the names of students who had outstanding performance.

In primary school I had a fear of talking to new people so when the Kucetekela Foundation team came, I got worried and thought of my performance during the group interview. Luckily, the head teacher briefly uttered some words of encouragement to us and this made me feel relaxed.

During the interviews, I realized that it was not as tough as I imagined. The team interviewing us was very friendly and patient. Quickly I picked up my confidence and even volunteered to solve a Math problem on the board. Every student did well that day but we had to wait for the results on who had made it to the next round. Four students from Mount Makulu were later invited for the exam at Chalo Trust School where we met other students from different primary schools. In between breaks, I interacted with others including students already in the program as well as the KF staff. I remember Abraham Tembo who talked about his experience being in KF and how his life has transformed.

After the exams, we went to our various homes and despite the exam being hard, the experience was unforgettable. I arrived at my primary school to the good news that I passed the exam and was invited for a family interview. This was the best news ever. I was also happy to hear that two of my other friends had also made it. We were slowly approaching the final grade seven exams which I prepared adequately for. My target was to get 800 and above but I fell short by 20 marks.

Based on my academic performance and several other factors I finally got the scholarship. My mother's happiness at this moment cannot be over emphasized. She realized how our financial predicament would have been a stumbling block to completing my secondary school education. My mother and I were later oriented on what was expected of us and the school I would be going to. I was more than excited to be at Chalo because of the many wonderful things I had heard about it.

My journey at Chalo has been one I would never regret. It's a very conducive environment with quality education and activities that I love. The students are friendly and very helpful. I'm taking seven subjects out of which Social Studies and Math are my favorite. In the speed Test One, I got the highest mark. In Social Studies I passed with 82%. I'm also actively involved in sports and performing arts where I demonstrated how to make a traditional bracelet. I have learnt the value of extending a hand to the people in need and with such I help to tutor my neighbor's daughter who is in grade two.

Kucetekela Foundation has taught me the value of selfless giving. I do not know my sponsors personally but their dedication towards helping a vulnerable child moves me. This is what I would term 'unconditional love.'

Meet Catherine Mumbi



Coming from a small community and school, there was no way I would have heard of Kucetekela Foundation. This was until my teacher called me and four other students to sign forms in preparation for the group interview. He explained and gave testimonies on how some students from Jesus Army had been beneficiaries of the same program. This sounded like a great opportunity that I would not trade for anything.

With the knowledge about KF from my teacher, I tried as much as possible to respond well to questions during the interview. At first we were all nervous but the interviewers made us feel comfortable with some jokes to light up the moment. From the onset, I convinced myself that if others made it then I would too.

My teacher communicated to my parents that I had passed the interviews and needed to go and write exams at Chalo Trust

School. I did not know what to expect in the exam, but one thing I was sure about was putting in all the effort needed.

Fortunately enough I had made it to the family interview stage. Being at a great secondary school and later best university in the world has always been my dream. Making it to this point was enough assurance that I was only a few steps away from getting into the Kucetekela Foundation family.

During the interviews, I tried to be as comfortable as possible because this was a competitive scholarship hence I needed to show my competence. Later in the month we were informed that I had made it for the scholarship. It was the best time of my life and greatest achievement. My mother's eyes were filled with tears of joy because she could not believe that her daughter who schooled at a community school would now be attending high school at one of the best institutions in the country.

This was followed by the orientation at the office where I got to meet and interact with other students who had also made it.

I love the idea of being at a boarding school, it's one of the things that pushed me to work hard and get into the KF program. When I went to Chalo, the warm welcome from other KF students made me feel at home.

In academics I did impressively well in Business and Agriculture Studies. These are my new favorite subjects because the concepts are easier to understand. On the tenth of February I joined the communications forum club where I took part in a debate between senior and junior

students. Back in primary we did not have such activities and this is one of the things I have loved about being at Chalo. JETS is another club I'm part of and we had an activity called charades that taught us how to cooperate for a common goal. Every Wednesday I also attend sports trainings in volleyball, athletics and football.

I'm optimistic that so many wonderful things will arise by virtue of me being part of this scholarship. I'm more than grateful to Kucetekela Foundation for awarding me this opportunity which I will use to develop myself and the world around me.

Meet Jackson Banda

Ever since I was in grade six, I fancied wearing a graduation gown to show my success. When I was



growing up, I would see some students in my community graduate to different levels of learning such as kindergarten to grade one, grade seven to eight and at grade twelve. I wished to have worn a gown when entering upper primary but because of the nature of my school, no graduation was held.

The coming of Kucetekela Foundation into my life has proved how attainable this dream is. When the KF team came to my primary school for interviews, I thought they would choose successful candidates just there and then. I had no knowledge that there were other important factors they had to consider. I wondered how long the process was and somehow my patience ran out.

A week later I received the news that I had made it to the next stage. My teacher congratulated and encouraged me to work even harder and make it to the finish line. This stage made me realize that it was possible to make it in the coming rounds. In the exams I had the conviction that I would be among the winners no matter how small the group might be.

I was so delighted when I received the news that I had made it to the family interview. My parents could not believe it. They did not understand the potential of this scholarship but all together they knew this was leading to a significant turnaround for all of us. After the successful family interviews and my excellent performance in my grade seven exam, I was finally among the few that got the Kucetekela Foundation scholarship. Words alone were not enough to express the happiness that I felt in this moment.

In primary school I looked forward to graduating in a classic gown but now I see beyond that. Being in KF has made me see endless possibilities. During the family interview, Mr. Mukena explained so many things that KF does for their students. He talked of seminars, mentorship and so many other interesting things. I particularly got interested in seminars because I would love to travel abroad to the USA.

From the recruitment process till now, I learnt some important lessons which are hard work and patience. Through patience, endurance is produced which leads to character formation. I have now developed a more positive attitude towards life and circumstances.



About Us

[Kucetekela Foundation](#) is an organization that sponsors talented, high achieving students in secondary school. Not only do we provide these high-need students with opportunities for quality education, but we also support their holistic personal development, through mentorship, work experience and community service programs. All of our secondary school graduates are currently enrolled in or have completed tertiary programs. We pride ourselves in providing high-quality services for our students, and always strive to inspire them as much as they inspire us.

Our Leadership Team

Oliver Barry	Co-founder and President
Florence Nkowane Lutale	Co-founder and Executive Director
Simasiku Mukena	Co-Founder and Finance and Administration Manager
Joshua N. Kamelu	Programs Manager

If you were encouraged by our students and would like to contribute towards their education, please use our donation link <https://kucetekelafoundation.org/donate/> or contact Mrs. Florence Nkowane at +260971594959 or Kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com to make a donation.

Thank you for reading!