



Kigutu International Academy



Kigutu International Academy (KIA) is a nonprofit secondary boarding school educating a new generation of problem-solvers, change-makers and entrepreneurial leaders. Since opening in 2020, KIA has offered the highest level of education to the top students from around the country.

KIA changes the face of education in Burundi, and prepares its students to bring this change across all sectors as tomorrow's leaders.

- 100%** Of students need financial aid and 100% of need is met.
- 10%** Acceptance rate in competitive admissions process.
- 128** Students enrolled from every Burundian province with an even gender distribution.



Admissions

As the only private school that offers full financial aid in Burundi, KIA admissions are extremely competitive

Application Considerations

- Strong academic record
- English and French proficiency
- Written and spoken communication skills
- Demonstrated commitment to the KIA values: Excellence, Service, Compassion, Resilience, and Ethics

Admissions Process

1. Written application, essays, and transcripts
2. Aptitude and language testing
3. Interview

Kigutu, Bururi, Burundi

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Academics

Accreditation: Burundian National Ministry of Education

Dual Curricula Note: KIA students simultaneously follow dual curricula. This allows our students to maintain their Burundian roots and expand their domestic post-graduate options (dependent on the national exam), while still achieving qualifying for universities abroad and developing identities as global citizens. A detailed breakdown of the curricula is on the following page.

Four-year Program: Due to our dual system, KIA operates at a highly accelerated pace. An additional fourth year of high school, for 14 total years of schooling, allows us to accommodate additional courses.

Student-to-Faculty Ratio: 7:1

Staff Details: KIA staff have come from five countries (Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United States, and France). Thirty percent of staff have an advanced degree, 50% have been educated and/or worked outside of Burundi, and 100% of teaching staff have a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

Grading

Our students are the best and brightest from around the country. Each has demonstrated the highest level of academic achievement both since coming to KIA and before.

Unweighted Grades: We follow a block schedule where all courses are accelerated, so all grades are unweighted. We provide letter grades to give context to percentage grades.

Grading Scale Note: Grades are hard-earned in Burundi, and scores above 80% are infrequently given.

Passing Grade: Students are required to pass each course with above 50% to graduate.

Ranking: Considering the general academic excellence of our population, we do not share student rankings with universities.

Grading Scale

A+	90-100%
A	80-90%
B	70-80%
C	60-70%
D	50-60%
F	0-50%

Class of 2024 Grading Information

Ungraded English Immersion Year: For the class of 2024, the first year of high school served as English immersion, and we will not be reporting grades.

***Important note: For the class of 2024, the school added the full Burundian curriculum during their 11th grade year. This means that:**

1. Students' grades universally dropped between 10th and 11th grades, because the Burundian system grades much more harshly than the international system. **On average, students' grades dropped 12 percentage points from the 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 school year.**
2. The class of 2024 had to fit three years of national curriculum into two years of instruction, in addition to their full set of international courses.

Therefore, grade changes from 10th to 11th grade do not indicate a negative change in student performance - on the contrary, as workload and course numbers increased, students stepped up to the challenge admirably.

Grade Distribution

	Percent	Students		
A+ (90-100%):	4%	1	Lowest GPA:	69%
A (80-90%):	37%	10	Median GPA:	77%
B (70-80%):	52%	14	Third quartile:	82%
C (60-70%):	7%	2	Highest GPA:	92%

Dual Curricula

Burundian National Curriculum

We have accreditation with the Burundi Ministry of Education and this part of our system follows the national curriculum. Students take the Burundian National Exams to progress after ninth grade, and after twelfth to graduate.

- French is the language of instruction, with language courses in English, Kirundi, and Swahili
- Science focus, with Physics, Biology, and Chemistry yearly, and two years of Earth Science
- Mathematics is taught for all students all years, from Algebra I through Calculus I
- Civics, Scientific Drawing, Technology, and Sports & Health ensure a holistic education

STEM

Mathematics

- Algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, through Calculus I and principles of Calculus II

Physics

- Basics of physics and practical applications
- Mechanics, electricity, and magnetism

Biology

- Foundations through advanced topics e.g. cellular, molecular, and genetic biology
- A-Level biology content covered

Chemistry

- Foundations through AP Chemistry content
- Atomic and organic chemistry

Earth Science

- Geology, climatology, and meteorology

Languages

Typical KIA student levels:

Kirundi: Native

English: Proficient

French: Proficient

Swahili: Conversational

Humanities/General

Civics: Citizenship studies

Sports and Health: General physical education and health

Technology: Communications and information technology proficiency

Scientific Drawing: Linear and plane representations

Signature International Curriculum

Developed based on multiple international systems, including IGCSE and American college prep curricula. Specifically formatted to complement and supplement the Burundian curriculum; both are required for all students.

- All courses taught in English, with an emphasis on speaking, writing, and reading proficiency
- Skills application focus in pursuance of mission to develop ethical leaders and critical thinkers
- Leadership courses with hands-on applications
- STEM courses to supplement national curriculum

STEM

KIA teaches Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry in English, in addition to the French national curriculum courses. This ensures students are comfortable with terminology and able to study STEM subjects in English, and it allows us to go beyond the national curriculum to add subjects covered in IGCSE, American systems, and other international curricula, for a holistic STEM education.

Global Perspectives: International-focused humanities studies and research skills

Entrepreneurship: Classes, workshops, and student venture incubation

Leadership: Theories and practical application

English Literature: World and African literature including writing and analysis

College Applications

All KIA students are prepared to apply for and succeed in colleges around the world. Students apply to international universities in both English and French.

Application Barriers: Access to technology is limited in Burundi and student experienced frequent power/WiFi outages. As we are a boarding school, students complete all of their applications with little or no parental or outside support.

Financial Aid: The Burundian GDP per capita is the lowest in the world, and the cost of living is degrees of magnitude below the United States. Therefore, nearly all KIA students receive full financial aid at KIA and will be dependent on full financial aid for their university education.

Fee Waivers: The cost of applying to college is prohibitive for nearly all KIA students, and most Burundian families do not have access to credit cards or online banking. Therefore, fee waivers for applications, the CSS profile, and other associated fees are necessary and greatly appreciated.

Testing: Standardized testing is not accessible in Burundi; although we are in the process of becoming an SAT testing center, the only active SAT center is four hours away. Costs and seat availability may prohibit students from testing. Students have little to no experience with multiple choice, timed standardized tests. Due to cost, our preferred language testing platform, if required, is Duolingo.

SAT Testing

Verbal Average:	550
Third Quartile Verbal:	640
Math Average:	640
Third Quartile Math:	705

*Current scores reflect practice exams

Extracurricular Life

We have a student body that is highly engaged outside of the classroom. Ninety percent of clubs and sports are student-initiated and student-led.

Clubs

Art
Choir
Community Sessions
Culture
English
Environment
French
KLIN (Entrepreneurship)
Model UN
Music
Newsletter
Programming
Robotics
Science
Spelling Bee
Student Council
Theater
Traditional Dance

Athletics

Basketball
Cheerleading
Football (soccer)
Handball
Hiking
Running
Volleyball

Service

Charity fundraising
Kigutu Help Association
Nonprofit startups
Summer camp volunteering
VHW internships

External Programs & Honors

- Pan-African Youth Leadership Program (US State Department)
- RISE for the World Finalists
- Yale Young Global Scholars
- Yale Young African Scholars
- African Leadership Academy
- Stanford Summer Sessions
- Harvard Online
- Babson Summer Study
- Sisters in Success
- MENYA Accelerator

Village Health Works

KIA is a part of and shares a campus with Village Health Works, an American-Burundian NGO that has been working since 2006 to provide high quality, compassionate health care and education in a dignified environment while also addressing the root causes of illness, poverty, violence, and neglect.



Where there is health, there is hope

Village Health Works has always been heavily involved in education, including managing the local primary and secondary government schools and operating a preschool, culminating in 2020 with the opening of KIA. The VHW and KIA teams work in synergy to provide the highest level of services, infrastructure, and staffing in our rural, underserved location.

Our proximity to VHW allows KIA students to have firsthand experience with ethical, transformative development in their home country, in addition to benefitting from VHW resources such as clinical and psychological care. All students complete an annual internship in a VHW department: clinic, communications, community engagement, finance, human resources, information technology, or monitoring & evaluation.

Staff & Leadership



Dr. Alice Rwamo
Director of KIA,
Kigutu Public Schools, and
Teacher Training Programs

Deogratias Niyizonkiza
CEO, Village Health Works



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