



STANDARD 8 2023 CANDIDATES



GRADE SIX 2023 CANDIDATES

**REHEMA TRUST**  
**(Registered Charity No: 1175562)**  
**Donor Update**  
**December 2023**

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My main purpose in writing to you is to thank each and everyone of you for your consistent and faithful support of our work in rural western Kenya to make good quality education available to the local community, including those many families, who would otherwise be unable to afford it.

It also so happens that Edward Wata’s latest **Year End Report** provides a very clear summary of what we have achieved and also what lies ahead, both in terms of opportunities and challenges.

**Introduction**



Barbara Leighton Academy is a school located in Siaya County, in the Western part of Kenya. The school was started in 2013 to address the plight of the vulnerable children who were enrolling in school late followed by school dropout. The majority of these children were coming from very poor families and most of their parents were also semi-literate. Having no proper education, most of these parents are peasant farmers who serve on daily casual labour.

Because they hardly manage to feed their families, school was only a third thought after food and health. The introduction of the school which was named after the late Barbara Leighton has brought light not only to the families but the entire community.

Many families now feel relieved as their children don’t need to travel far distance as they go to school. They are also sure that their children will have to take at least a meal a day as sometimes things are so tough that the families go for a whole day without a meal. The feeding programme run by the school is a great boost to child health. The community has benefitted a lot through some of the projects done by the school such as murrum surfacing of the access road which had been impassable during heavy rains.

The school has also offered employment to members of the community of whom some are able to pay the little levies the school receives from parents.

The school is registered by the Ministry of Education and has qualified staffs recognized by Teachers Service Commission [TSC]. This brings confidence to parents that their children are getting quality education.

## Catchment Area

The catchment area for this school is Sadiesa Village. The school is surrounded by four state schools, the nearest being half a kilometer away. Majority of people believe that quality of education is mostly provided in private schools because of the teacher pupil ratio. In public schools, children are flooded in classrooms with few teachers to the extent that learning mostly take place among bright children. Slow learners are always doomed to failure.

What makes Barbara Academy different is that it provides quality education, like most Academies at a very low cost compared to other Academies that are considered as profit making institutions.

## School Population

The school has an enrollment of children ranging between 100 to 120 from Early Childhood Education to Upper Primary. It has three Teachers in Nursery school section and eight in Primary School Section. The school is run by a competent P.T.A [Parents Teachers Association] committee under the leadership of the Director, School Manager and a Head Teacher.

The school also has non-teaching staff, who provide essential services such as food, security and healthcare. All the staffs must undergo thorough scrutiny during recruitment, which ends with signing of the **Child Protection Policy**, which is a key document in this institution.

## Daily Activities

Children are expected to report to school before 7:30 am. At 8:00am they go to parade where they get instructions for the day's events. During the parade time, they sing both the National and East



African Anthems. They raise the flag as directed by the scouts. They also sing some praise and worship songs then pray before they break for classes.

Every Friday, they assemble in a central place for Pastoral Instructions for a two-lesson period. During this time, they sing songs and get preaching and teaching from an invited guest minister. This should be done in a school hall but since the school has no hall, the school assembles in the school field in the scorching sun.

In the evening, children get time to participate in the co-curriculum activities. The other challenge here is the playing field which is very small. Some of the activities include ball games, drama, singing among others.

## **Achievements for 2023**

Despite all the challenges the school faced this year, we are proud to report the following achievements:

- Installation of electricity in all the classrooms.
- Improvement of the I.T Equipment
- Adjustment on the Pupil: Textbook ratio of 3:1
- School Tour [Visit to the Kisumu Airport, Impala Park, Hippo Point and Lake Victoria]
- Participation of the school in sports activity with other local schools
- Participation of pupils in the Scouts competitions
- Participation of the first Candidate classes: Std 8[ KCPE] and Grade 6[ KEPSEA] in the National exams.

## **Class Performance**

All the classes did well with almost all children meeting expectation. Unlike the old 8.4.4 curriculum system, where poor performing children were expected to repeat classes, the new C.B.C does not give room for repeating, therefore all our children are moving to the next level.

Every year, we organize a graduation ceremony for children, who are being promoted to grade one from Nursery [PP2]. We thank God that this year's graduation was very educative as children also showed their various talents.

## **Infrastructure**

God has been gracious to us since Rehema Trust began to be the main donor of the school. Every year we have managed to construct a classroom in advance as we moved to the next class. This has helped us to avoid crowding pupils of different classes in one room.

With the introduction of the new curriculum [C.B.C], which is more practical, it is evident that more facilities are necessary to access the services required to provide the knowledge to be imparted in children.

For this reason, there is a need to acquire three facilities [school hall, computer lab, library] of which one room is currently available after the Std 8 pupils sat for their exams and are now waiting to join High School.

If we take the vacant STD 8 classroom to be our computer lab, then we are praying that God helps us to acquire a school hall [which can also serve as a dining hall] and a library. We would then give priority to a school hall.

### **Challenges Faced in 2024**

The most challenge were faced in 2023 is the high cost of living. We are projecting that this will go on in the coming year as this are getting worst with imposed taxation in every area by the government.

Life is becoming unbearable especially among the low earners. It is our prayer that the school gets some income generating activity projects so that it does not have to rely on the fees collected from the parents. We thank God that Rehema Trust meets the greater percentage of the total cost of running the school.

### **Plan for 2024**

The PTA has prioritized construction of a school hall, school van and improvement of pupil textbook ratio to 2:1 from 3:1. The committee believes that most children, who boost the school financially are those from neighbouring villages who use the hired bus. The cost of fuel keeps on skyrocketing and therefore we might lose some children next year if we depend on a hired van.

The committee has planned to hold a fundraiser early next year to purchase a van, which is believed will benefit both the school and the community as they will be able to get a van they can also hire at a low rate.

It is therefore the prayer of the school that Rehema Trust may continue supporting where possible as the committee also does the necessary.

Together we shall win the race.

Report prepared by Edward Wata (Director)

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I hope you have found it interesting to read Edward's first-hand report. If you would like to help meet these challenges, please do contact me for more information.

Thank you for helping us to make a real difference to so many young lives.

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