

There is a lot of change and excitement for Form 1 (9th Grade) students as they begin to navigate the world of boarding school. Academic scholarships and joining the EFAC community sets them on a course that once seemed unattainable.

A Different Environment

EFAC Scholars come from rural villages and informal settlements across Kenya. Many have lost parents and most have experienced extreme poverty. EFAC partner boarding schools not only provide a stellar high school education, but a safe environment, meals, and basic comforts. Students begin forging life-changing relationships with peers and educators, including other EFAC Scholars!

New Academic Challenges

Form 1 students are determined, resilient students who have out-performed their peers in primary school to secure a place in an EFAC partner high school. Once there, students must adapt to rigorous academics; they take 12 classes, including Kiswahili, English, Math, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History & Government, Geography, Religion, Agriculture or Home Science, Business Studies or Computer Studies.



Communicating with EFAC Scholars

Communication with sponsors is an important part of the EFAC experience. Students share about their lives and school experiences, and love receiving correspondence from sponsors who cheer them on as they brave academic and social challenges. Letters are exchanged three times during the school year. Helpful communication tips are included in the Sponsor Handbook.

Letter Writing Timeline

	To student...		From student...
Letter 1	January	↔	April
Letter 2	June	↔	August
Letter 3	October	↔	December

Bridging Two Worlds

During school breaks, students return home to find that younger children in their community view them as examples of leadership and dedication. EFAC Scholars lean on the EFAC community for support when they return to challenges at home.

EFAC Workshops

Students kick off their EFAC journey at Induction, where they are formally welcomed into the EFAC community. They attend with their guardians, receiving an orientation to EFAC's program and meeting other EFAC Scholars in their cohort. Annual workshops for EFAC Scholars are a critical part of the program, providing guidance and learning beyond academics. The first workshop students attend is called Bridge-to-Success. Over 200 Form 1 and Form 2 students from 20 high schools across Kenya gather for this 5-day workshop that emphasizes leadership, social skills, time management, study habits, and health & wellness. In addition, the students bond with their EFAC community, sharing their journeys with other talented young people from similar backgrounds.



How do letters get to the students?

Letters are scanned and emailed to the U.S. office and forwarded to the Kenyan office. The program team in Kenya distributes the letters to the students. Due to internet limitations and program guidelines, there is no direct correspondence between sponsors and students until post-secondary school.

What should I write in my letters?

Students LOVE learning about your interests, family, and what life is like where you live. Ask questions about the student's home, school life, favorite books, school subjects, activities, etc. Words of encouragement are always appreciated.

What is a typical school day like for a Form 1 student?

Morning

5:00am Wake up
5:30am Morning Devotions
6:00am Breakfast
6:30am Cleaning duties
7:00am-1:00pm Classes

While weekend schedules vary slightly, students attend classes 7 days a week.

Afternoon

1:00-2:00pm Lunch
2:00-4:00pm Classes
4:00pm Field games
6:00pm Dinner
7:00-9:00pm Study time
10:00pm Lights out

When are students in school or on break?

High School Calendar 2024

Term 1

Early January to Early April
Early to Late April, break

Term 2

Late April to Early August
Early to Late August, break

Term 3

Late August to Late October
November to Early January, break

FORM 4 KCSE Testing:
November 4 to 22

What are "revisions"?

"Revisions" is simply another word for studying. Rote learning is common in Kenya, so students spend a lot of time reviewing previous lessons. Students may reference this term in their letters.

Please refer to the Sponsor Handbook for more FAQs or email Kayla Lawson, klawson@efac.org with additional questions.