

Students in School Administration - Emmanuel

Dear Friends,

In my last article, (Dec. 2019) I mentioned that students who distinguish themselves are appointed to be leaders among their own peers. In all Ghanaian schools there are some specially chosen students who may be considered as part of the school administration. They are kind of a bridge between the staff of the school and the rest of the students. They are therefore a significant group in the school, particularly when it comes to interacting with the students, communication, enforcement of school rules and the maintenance of the school and its programs. Such students are generally referred to as 'Prefects'.

Prefect - noun - meaning: administrator

Students are chosen to be one of the Prefects in their school for many reasons. I outlined those reasons in my last article. Please check out the FLC website to read my last article, if you missed it. But the main reason is that the student is looked upon as a mentor or role model to their peers.

This article is about the 2019/2020 academic year **School Prefect** at our Akrampa School. And as indicated in the last article, that such a student could be either a boy or girl, the Akrampa School Prefect I am writing about is a boy.

Emmanuel Asante, is thirteen (13) years old - born June 18, 2006 - and is in the final year (9th Grade) of the Junior High School level. He is an average academic student, one that could be described as hard working, trying to do his best in all the subjects. He was chosen to be School Prefect for being very respectful, obedient, committed, disciplined and very exemplary as a student leader.

Emmanuel is from a family of 8 children. There are 5 boys (including himself) and 3 girls. He is the third child. The first born in the family is a young man who never completed school and now makes a living riding one of 'motor bike taxis' that have become a phenomenon in Ghana (like one would find in the Philippines or China). We are all so proud of Emmanuel for staying in school and working so hard.

Emmanuel sings very well and likes to dance to the tune of the local drums during festivities. He also loves to cook and is always a big help in the preparation of the Breakfast Meals for the Akrampa students. We encourage students to play any role that they choose to help out with, and Emmanuel has been very helpful in this because of his own personal interest in cooking.

Emmanuel's father is a carpenter. Although not one you would describe as highly professional, rather one with sufficient knowledge in making simple chairs and tables for domestic use and making beds and various types of simple furniture. Emmanuel's mother is a petty trader in farm produce, such as peppers, tomatoes, onions and other vegetables.

Emmanuel will sometimes help his Dad on some of his projects especially when school is out on holiday break. But he has no interest in becoming a carpenter. Emmanuel's aspiration is to become a teacher, which will involve a lot more schooling past the 9th grade. Or if that doesn't work out, he might choose to become a mechanic. In local parlance, those who repair vehicles are known as a 'fitter'. Most of such students simply become apprenticed to other locally, self-trained artisans, who train them in the simplicity of their trade. They never attend any technical institution. Their classroom is the 'master's shop'.

On behalf of myself, my family and everyone in Akrampa - we'd like to wish all of you a very happy and healthy New Year!

Blessings, Pastor Ben Wilson