

Preparations for the National Examination

Dear Friends,

The purpose of this article is to bring to your knowledge one other activity that the Akrampa School participates in, precisely with regard to the 'Learners', as they are now described by the administrators of the Ghanaian educational system. All 'Learners', the word used for students, globally must move to the next stage of their education journey. This allows them to make a living in this highly competitive world, where one may only survive, if one has the requisite education and skills. Starting in 2014, the Akrampa School was enlarged to progress up to the Junior High level: 7th- 9th Grade. At the end of 9th Grade the Learners/students take the National Exams, (B.E.C.E). Akrampa students who were the first enrolled class of our Junior High, became the first class of Akrampa 9th Graders, in the year 2017.

- In 2017, our first batch of Akrampa Learners/students (9th Graders) to write the Basic Education Certificate Examination (B.E.C.E), consisted of **7 Learners**: 3 boys and 4 girls!!
- Since our first class, the number of Learners/students being presented for National Exams have increased phenomenally! For the 2022 National Exam (B.E.C.E) there was a total of **52 Learners**: 30 boys and 22 girls.
- This academic year, 2023, Akrampa School has a total of **55 Learners** being presented: 16 boys and 39 girls -- an increase of three more learners compared with last year's number.

This underscores my earlier submissions, from past articles, that the population of the school is growing so quickly. Currently in the primary grade classes (K - 6th Grade), the average number of students in a classroom is 35 -- for a room the size of which should have no more than 20 Learners/students. We are now having to deny some children admission into the school! I need to reiterate that the nucleus community of Akrampa has changed and grown phenomenally. This is a result of many non-indigenous people coming to live among them; people who have made their homes there, live there & commute to and from Akrampa, who wish for the children to attend local schools, and always make Akrampa, in terms of proximity, their first choice of place of education for their children.

The Akrampa School Learners/students will be participating in the 2023 National Examinations, which will be held from **August 7th - 11th, 2023**. Akrampa students have been taken through *mock exams* that are similar to the structure that the examination takes. The main reason is so that they become familiar with the form and structure, and also to prepare their minds in readiness for the *real* examinations. Many schools encourage these *mock examinations* so the teachers can determine whether or not their Learners are ready, and they themselves also use it to determine if what they have taught from the syllabuses have been understood by the Learners. The *mock examination* comes, generally, about three weeks before the start of the National Examination, so upon review, both Learners and teachers would attempt to rectify any subject or topic that, from the results show that the lesson was not taught well or the students failed to understand it. Most often the questions used for the *mock examination* are from the old/previous examination papers. These old/previous papers are acquired from the archives of the National Examinations Office, where they are sold to interested schools or individuals.

The *mock examination* is conducted on the Akrampa School premises, while the National Examination is taken at examination centers selected by the District Office of Education. It is our fervent hope and prayer that our Learners will do well and come home highly expectant and hopeful of good results that will place them in the Senior High School (10th - 12th Grade) of **their choice**.

Before the National Examinations, throughout Ghana, the 9th Grade Learners/students are invited to register for the National Examination, B.E.C.E - and unique index numbers are given to them individually. In the course of the registration, they are asked to select **Six Senior High Schools** they would prefer to attend. A computer system is in place to automatically select from the six, the *three* schools that by the Learner's performance, he or she may be admitted into. If the *first choice* is unavailable to the Learner/student, either as a result of the Learner not getting the requisite score or unavailability of space (where more than the number available becomes an issue), then the *second choice* will be offered. When that fails, there is always the *third choice*. The *choosing* of a school by the Learner, and the subsequent *selection of the Learner/student by a school* is done by feeding the data into the Examination Office Computer, which is known as **Computer School Selection Placement System (CSSPS)**.

May the Lord bless the efforts of both our Akrampa Learners and Teachers with good results in this year's examinations. Please keep them in your prayers.

Blessings, Pastor Ben Wilson