



St Jude's News

APR 2023



An Experience to Remember

[Story page 2](#)



Staff Spotlight: Mr Mhando

[Story page 4](#)



Facing the Future

[Story page 6](#)



Meet The Author

[Story page 8](#)



A Trip To Remember: Students from Culver Academies in a group photo with students from St Jude's doing a joint sports session.



Our Australian fundraising partner is registered as The School of St Jude Ltd and is responsible for all funds raised in Australia.

An Experience to Remember



A team of students and staff from Culver Academies reflect their memorable visit to St Jude's.



A Trip To Remember: Students from Culver Academies in a group photo with students from St Jude's doing a joint sports session.

Mrs Strobel visited The School of St Jude for the first time during the summer of 2017 and she immediately fell in love with the school.

"The visit created a lasting impression on me," she recalls. "Although I had already heard plenty of good things about the school, nothing could prepare me for the wonderful experience of this place. I knew I had to come back," she adds.

Two years later, Mrs Strobel returned to St Jude's with a team of students and staff from Culver Academies, a boarding school in the United States, in what would mark the beginning of a promising and fruitful partnership between the two schools.

This year Mrs Strobel made her third visit to St Jude's and she did not come alone.

"I was thrilled to once again bring students and colleagues from my school, Culver Academies," she says excitedly. "It was a large group of 19 students, for all of whom it was their first time at St Jude's, and four adults including my husband," she adds.

In the months and weeks leading up to the visit, Mrs Strobel corresponded with the Visitors team at St Jude's to arrange a suitable itinerary for the group.

"As the team leader of a large group of students, it can be quite challenging to plan and organise a successful trip," shares Mrs Strobel. "Luckily, the Visitors team was more than equipped to handle all our requests and were even flexible to make additional adjustments to enhance our experience," she adds.

The team from Culver Academies spent two weeks at St Jude's, participating in the day-to-day activities with St Jude's students including sports, extracurricular activities, cooking lessons, and others.



Happy To Be Back: Mrs Strobel (right) leads her second group of students and staff to St Jude's.



Fulfilling Moment: Alexandria (left) and Faith (right) are leading the cause to support programs that improve women and children's lives in Africa.

"It was a truly immersive experience," says Alexandria, one of the students from Culver Academies. "We would start our day with students as they arrive at school in the buses, and be with them when they board the buses back home. It was inspiring to see how everyone takes pride in their tasks – from studying hard in class to their school chores," she explains.

Another exciting experience at St Jude's was a friendly sports competition between Culver Academies and St Jude's students.

"The Visitors team helped organise a football and a volleyball match between us and St Jude's after school hours," says Faith, one of the students from Culver Academies. "It was interesting to experience a bit of competition and sportsmanship between our two schools because we are very much alike," she adds.

The group was part of Culver's Leadership Committee for Africa (LCA), a student-run organisation which works with other organisations in Africa to financially support programs that promote health, welfare, education, and advancement of women and children, and provide opportunities for students to learn and excel.

"We currently support three organisations in Africa through LCA, and St Jude's is one of them," says Faith, one of the student leaders of LCA. "Being a student-led program, we organise our own fundraising programs and activities to financially support our partner organisations," she adds.

Faith and her team fund LCA's mission through community fundraisers where they would routinely sell treats such as popcorn and candy for charity at social and sports events. Another popular fundraising strategy is by leveraging the competitive nature of the school environment.

"Like St Jude's, Culver Academies is also a boarding school and students are grouped into smaller communities called Dorms and Barracks, which is similar to the House system here at St Jude's," explains Alexandria who is also one of the student leaders of LCA. "Naturally, there is plenty of competition between different Dorms. So, there is a system in which a Dorm can earn an extra point when one of its members donates a penny to a good cause. This brings in a lot of healthy competition," she adds.

Every year, the Visitors team organises exciting activities to give visitors a unique and memorable experience at St Jude's and Tanzania. As a team that is passionate about providing an immersive St Jude's experience to our visitors, they are living up the phrase 'We Love Visitors'.



Good Times: The 2023 Spring Break team from Culver Academies in a group picture with Gemma (middle), St Jude's Founder.



Our Visitors team is equipped to make your visit to St Jude's an experience to remember. **Visit Today.**



Staff Spotlight: Mr Mhando

Learn how our staff are using their skills and knowledge to inspire the next generation of Tanzanian leaders.

The School of St Jude is a vibrant hub of many career opportunities not only in education but also in IT, marketing, finance, procurement, management, human resources, and many others. Over 350 Tanzanian staff are employed at the school's three campuses to support its many operations.

Mr Mhando is the Operations Senior Manager at St Jude's, a multi-faceted, dynamic role that looks after our Information Technology systems, fleet, and campus maintenance, growth and infrastructure.

"It is a role that neatly ties together my academic qualifications and professional experience," says Mr Mhando. "I manage several teams, working in various aspects of the school, so I tend to move around a lot which is quite refreshing," he adds.

Mr Mhando is passionate about leveraging the power of technology and computer systems to optimise workplace efficiency. He has enjoyed a long and illustrious career in several national and multinational organisations within and beyond Africa.

"My first job after completing my bachelor's degree in Technology and Computer Science was at an international school where I helped set their IT systems in place," says Mr Mhando.



Mr Mhando was the first ever IT person hired at the school. In his new role, Mr Mhando pioneered putting the fundamental computer and IT systems in place, incorporated internet connection and helped set up their first computer laboratory.

“I feel incredibly honoured to have kicked off my career working in a school because I am very passionate about education and its potential for future generations,” reflects Mr Mhando.

Mr Mhando’s next adventure would have him managing a team of around 20 people in another pioneering role at one of the largest international conference centres in the country.

“I am fortunate to have led several pioneering roles throughout my career,” says Mr Mhando. “This gave me the freedom to mould things how I wanted them early on, which made my work easier to run and maintain,” he adds.

Over the years, Mr Mhando worked in several high-profile national and international organisations including the Pan African Parliament, African Commission of Human Rights (later the African Court), and a German development agency. His passion for education and the potential of using his skills to inspire the next generation of aspiring Tanzanian professionals has seen Mr Mhando make his way to St Jude’s.

“Being able to contribute to St Jude’s great mission and vision is truly fulfilling,” reflects Mr Mhando. “I am continually inspired by the transformative power of education constantly at work at St Jude’s. It fills me with plenty of hope for the next generation and the future of my country,” he adds passionately.

Besides work Mr Mhando enjoys writing poems, listening to jazz music, and harbours a deep love and appreciation for nature. He is one of more than 350 Tanzanian staff currently at St Jude’s putting their skills to work, fighting poverty through education.



On Top of Things: Mr Mhando following up on a construction project on campus.



Pushing Tech: Mr Mhando uses his extensive experience in technology to optimise efficiency at St Jude’s.



Your support enables The School of St Jude to hire and sustain qualified and experienced staff to maximise its impact. **Donate Today.**

Facing the Future



St Jude's students share their future aspirations ahead of the secondary school graduation.



Looking Forward to the Future: Ibrahim, Agnes and Brayan chat excitedly about their future prospects.

When one major life chapter closes, it marks the beginning of a brand new chapter. Facing this reality can be both exhilarating and unsettling at the same time. As graduation approaches, three outstanding Form 6 students were asked about their time at The School of St Jude and their vision for the future.

There are three key stages of schooling in Tanzania. It starts with seven years of primary school from Standard 1 to 7, then four years of secondary school from Form 1 to Form 4 in Ordinary Level (O Level) studies and two years of secondary school from Form 5 to 6 in Advanced Level (A Level) studies.

Brayan, who started at St Jude's in Form 5 and studied Advanced Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics, is a passionate individual who approaches the future with a purpose. "My goal is to address community problems like assisting health and education issues through computer coding solutions," he says enthusiastically.

Brayan is determined to study Computer Science at university. He sees himself becoming a businessman that uses his computer skills to create new software to help better the community. When asked about the challenges he may face, he responded with "the possibility of unemployment because of very few job vacancies in my field," before adding, "that's why I feel grateful to have gone to St Jude's, as the quality education I gained here increases my employability."

Ibrahim, who started at St Jude's in Form 1 and studied Geography, History and Language, is a quiet inspiration. "I loved the holistic education, mainly the opportunity to play sports," he says beaming. When prompted about what he wishes to study at university, he answered "I'd really love to study a Bachelor in Hospitality and Tourism. I'm passionate about the idea of being in tourism so I can learn about other people's cultures." Ibrahim spoke of the invaluable skills he learnt here at St Jude's. So, while



Plugged in: Brayan has a passion for developing his skills in the computer lab.

Agnes is driven by a passion for serving people and leading positive change in her community. This is why she wants to study Applied Biology in Environmental Conservation at university. When asked about where she sees herself in the future, she replied “As a successful person. And I define a successful person as someone that creates positive change in the lives of others.”

With the graduation taking place on the 20th May, it is the beginning of an exciting, new journey for Brayan, Ibrahim, Agnes and the rest of their cohort. These students of St Jude’s are an inspiration in their own rights, all looking towards the future with positivity, determination and enthusiasm.



World of Possibility: Ibrahim is eager to experience and understand the different cultures abroad.

Ibrahim knows there will be challenges ahead, such as moving away from home to study, he feels confident in the problem solving life skills he gained during his time at St Jude’s.

Agnes, who started at St Jude’s in Standard 1 and studied Biology, Chemistry and Geography, presented herself with an upbeat and positive attitude. “I have been nurtured and have grown seeing how people exhaust their potential to the maximum just to make the world a better place,” she comments cheerfully. “The heart of giving not only time but also resources, and to see how people have worked together to end the cycle of poverty makes me honoured to be here at St Jude’s,” she adds with enthusiasm.



Words of Wisdom: Agnes believes that books are the gateway to the world of knowledge.



Your support inspires students to develop dreams and future aspirations.
Please consider sponsoring today.

Meet The Author



Get to know the author of St Jude's latest book, *The School That Hope Built*.



Meet The Author: Maddie Kelly, the author of *The School That Hope Built*, spent nearly six years at St Jude's.

Inspiration



Maddie was inspired to become a writer by her father, John Kelly, who is a published poet. Her childhood memories include her parents reading her and her siblings classic authors like Charles Dickens and C.S Lewis before bed.

First Impression



Maddie first heard about The School of St Jude from her teacher when she was 16 years old. The teacher showed the class an episode of the Australian Story about St Jude's which marked the beginning of Maddie's interest in the school.

Start of a six-year adventure



Maddie arrived at St Jude's in 2017 shortly after completing her university studies and ended up spending the next six years of her life at the school. She took on several roles in the Marketing department, Alumni Office, and later as a Communication and Editorial Specialist.

Start of the book project



Gemma approached Maddie with the idea of writing a book in 2019 after supporters suggested the idea during a recent Australian Tour. Maddie felt "nervous" at first but honoured that she could be trusted with such a magnificent story.

The writing process



Maddie wrote the entire book while living in Tanzania at the school. She would dedicate the early morning hours to writing and the afternoons to interviewing people and editing her work.

The writing experience



Maddie spent many hours interviewing St Jude's stakeholders from all walks of life. She describes connecting with people from around the world who share something special about St Jude's as a humbling and incredible experience.

A fun fact



Maddie has a twin sister who barely looks like her!



Dive into the enthralling and inspirational 21-year journey of The School of St Jude.
Pre-order your copy today.