



ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL

P.O.Box 31,MBABANE,SWAZILAND
Tel:(+268) 404-2591 , 404-5133 Fax:(+268) 404-4215
E-Mail: stmarkshs@realnet.co.sz

NOTES PREPARED BY PRINCIPAL DOMINIC NXUMALO ON ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL.

1. BRIEF BACKGROUND

St. Marks High School, one of the seven Government Boarding Schools, was founded in 1908 by Bishop Watts, the first Principal. This date however is still to be verified as in some documents about the history of the school, 1910 is widely cited. It was originally a school for whites only under the St. Mark's Association. The school was handed over to the Swaziland Government in 1956. From that period on till today it became a multiracial institution. From 1910 to 1978 it was administered/ led by white Headmasters/Principals. African/ Black administrators started administering St. Mark's in 1979 to date, who most of them are still alive and in productive work. It is the only Government /Public School that has been offering an Advanced Level Program since 1978. Since the take over by Swaziland Government the maintenance of facilities has been and still deteriorating.

The school with such a long history has obviously a very long list of quality products and/ or prominent Ex-students locally and outside Swaziland. We are still trying to compile an accurate list of all ex-students who are today prominent in life, and to document accurate historical facts about the school. The current administration with the support of School Committee, PTA Committee, Teachers, Parents and Students is working hard on improving and taking the school to a higher level because of its rich and long history with academic excellence.

Our Moto: " Nisi Dominus". Except The Lord Build the House, they who build it, build in vain. This Motto still prevails even today.

2. VISION

Our vision is to continue providing quality, relevant, and flexible education of international standards that will produce students fully prepared to face all challenges in a real world.

3. PROPOSED RE- UNION FUNCTION OF EX-ST. MARK'S STUDENTS

The main purpose of the St. Mark's High School Reunion Function of Ex-students (which is long over due), is two folds:

local needs but also with an international flavour for many more years to come. Our long-term goal is to have this Association permanently formed and be part of the school's organizational structure.

- ii) To start preparing for the Centenary Celebrations to take place in 2008/ 1910. Our school is undoubtedly recognized locally and worldwide for the quality products academically produced over the years.

We strongly believe in setting clear goals and / or targets to be pursued and accomplished by all key stakeholders. All these key Stakeholders in the final analysis would be in position to claim ownership and have a sense of pride as regards achievements.

4. **AIMS OF THE EX-ST. MARK'S STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Basically the following would form part of the aims and objects of the proposed Association:

- i) To regularly organize Re-union functions with the view of bringing together all Ex-students to socialize and globally share their varied experiences that may be relevant and beneficial to the school.
- ii) To regularly meet with the School Administration, PTA and the School Committee in order to share ideas on how to improve and develop the Infrastructure of the school.
- iii) To work with the School Administration, PTA and School Committee on Soliciting funds to improve and develop the school facilities etc.

The school has already compiled a list of future projects to be undertaken as a way of taking it to greater heights. Also, the existing structures would need a clear plan of action for their maintenance. We have given ourselves a **time-frame** of about five years to accomplish most of these ambitious projects.

5. **LIST OF IMMEDIATE FUTURE SCHOOL PROJECTS**

1. New administration office
2. Extension of the Staffroom
3. Computer Laboratory
4. A-Level Classroom/Lab
5. A block of flats for Teachers
6. A block of New additional classrooms: 1 – 5
7. Rehabilitation of school & hostel buildings
8. Upgrading of the Security School Fence

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9. Rehabilitation of Campus Roads
10. Construction of Campus Roads
11. Improvement of the Main Entrance Gate
12. Repairing of all walkways and steps
13. Tiling of the school hall.
14. Construction of Support Staff quarters.
15. Improvement of the soccer field
16. Upgrading of the School Library
17. Extension of the Principal's office
18. Expansion of the School Curriculum to introduce:
 - * Fine Art
 - * Economics
 - * Drama
 - * Computer Studies as an examinable subjects
 - * Reintroduction of Portuguese
 - * Introducing of more languages; such as Swahili, Portuguese etc.
19. Lockers for students
20. Expansion of the Dining Hall
21. Provision of Tuck-shop and Kitchen to Cater for all St. Mark's Community
22. School Bus.
23. Establishment of St. Mark's High Bursary to cater for Needy students etc.
24. Improvement of drainage around Woodwork shop
25. Installation of Flood for all Courts
26. Provision of Relaxation of seats on School Campus
27. Rehabilitation of Squash Courts.

It cannot be over-emphasized that as a school if we collectively work, all our dreams will be realized at the end. This is because our past experience has taught us that working cooperatively would always result in some success. We therefore look forward with a great hope to working well with our ex-students wherever there will be in future.