

# TOP 100 SCHOOLS

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## Sing the praises of these state schools

Champions stand proud in SA's public education landscape

THE Sunday Times commissioned the University of the Witwatersrand's visiting researcher Helen Perry to identify the Top 100 government schools in the country.

The matrices of 2008, on which the survey is based, are the first graduates of the new curriculum introduced in stages 12 years ago. Schools with 50 or more pupils were considered for the survey.

The index considers academic achievement and is calculated by combining these five factors:

- Matric pass rate;
- Percentage of pupils with a university entrance pass;
- The average number of A symbols;
- The number of maths candidates achieving over 50%, as a percentage of all candidates at the school;
- The number of science candidates achieving over 50%, as a percentage of all candidates at the school.

Said Perry, who is an education policy analyst: "The last two factors, it should be noted, are not simply the percentage of candidates getting over 50% for maths or science, but the number of candidates getting over 50% for maths and science as a percentage of all candidates in the school.

"The intention of this was to reward schools for the total number of pupils encouraged to do these subjects, as well as how well these pupils did in the exams.

"In so doing, we avoid unduly rewarding schools that selected only their best students to sit for these subjects."

The Sunday Times has revived the Top 100 schools project, last undertaken by the newspaper 10 years ago, to give its readers the information necessary to make "the single most important decision parents will make — where to educate their children", said Sunday Times editor Mondli Makhanya.

"We also want to celebrate schools that have achieved excellence, demonstrate why they performed so well, and highlight the top schools as role models for others to learn from," he said.

"We emphasised maths and science because the low number of graduates in these subjects is a huge challenge."

ON SONG: Westerford High School in Cape Town is the country's top state school

Picture: ESA ALEXANDER



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH

### THE TOP 100 SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AFRICA (in alphabetical order)

Prov.	School	Candidates	% Pass	% University entrance	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50	Prov.	School	Candidates	% Pass	% University entrance	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
FS	Afrikaanse Hoërskool Kroonstad	92	100%	64%	1.8	52%	24%	EC	Kingsridge High School	80	100%	96%	1.4	49%	28%
GA	Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool	168	100%	99%	3.7	58%	43%	KZ	Kingsway High	184	99%	83%	1.6	59%	31%
GA	Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool	217	100%	95%	1.8	69%	44%	GA	Krugerdsorp High School	224	100%	86%	1.2	42%	28%
EC	Alexander Road High School	228	100%	78%	1.8	48%	25%	WC	La Rochelle Meisies High School	82	100%	87%	1.7	48%	22%
GA	Benoni High School	304	100%	86%	1.3	46%	27%	KZ	Ladysmith High	182	100%	88%	1.8	57%	40%
WC	Bloemhof High School	125	100%	98%	2.9	66%	38%	KZ	Maritzburg College	223	100%	88%	1.8	61%	42%
GA	Bryanston High School	205	100%	90%	1.2	52%	25%	LP	Mbilwi Secondary	201	100%	93%	1.5	80%	75%
FS	C and NH Meisieskool Oranje	148	100%	86%	2.0	37%	22%	KZ	New Forest High	135	100%	82%	1.1	56%	25%
WC	Cape Academy For Maths Science & Tech	78	100%	82%	0.8	85%	67%	GA	Northcliff High School	261	100%	83%	1.0	56%	35%
KZ	Carter High	192	100%	88%	1.2	47%	30%	KZ	Northlands Girls' High	112	100%	96%	2.4	56%	26%
EC	Clarendon Girls' High School	143	100%	92%	1.9	68%	38%	KZ	Northwood High	201	100%	78%	1.5	55%	40%
EC	Collegiate Girls' High School	150	100%	93%	1.9	65%	39%	WC	Oudtshoorn High School	124	100%	83%	1.3	55%	27%
WC	D.F. Malan High School	223	100%	86%	2.0	53%	30%	WC	Paarl Girls' High School	86	100%	94%	2.2	53%	27%
KZ	Danville Park Girls' High	153	100%	99%	2.7	60%	37%	WC	Parel Vallei High School	220	100%	92%	1.8	59%	38%
LP	Dendron Secondary	93	98%	78%	1.7	67%	38%	GA	Parktown Boys' High School	158	99%	90%	1.5	68%	59%
KZ	Dundee High	134	100%	83%	1.6	37%	24%	GA	Parktown Girls' High School	205	100%	97%	2.0	68%	37%
KZ	Durban Girls' High	233	100%	96%	2.9	61%	47%	WC	Paul Roos Gimnasium	207	100%	90%	1.5	74%	54%
KZ	Durban High	184	99%	79%	1.5	67%	46%	EC	Pearson High School	123	99%	70%	1.0	57%	35%
WC	Durbanville High School	186	100%	81%	1.7	41%	23%	KZ	Pietermaritzburg Girls' High	218	100%	96%	2.4	60%	35%
FS	Eunice Secondary School	168	100%	93%	1.8	51%	43%	KZ	Port Shepstone High	237	100%	83%	1.6	45%	31%
WC	Fairmont High School	222	100%	82%	1.4	64%	34%	NW	Potchefstroom Gimnasium	189	100%	93%	2.8	57%	44%
NW	Fields College	75	100%	93%	1.7	43%	36%	NW	Potchefstroom Girls' High	104	100%	87%	1.4	44%	35%
WC	Fish Hoek Senior High School	185	100%	74%	1.5	54%	30%	GA	Pretoria Boys' High School	304	100%	95%	1.5	75%	61%
KZ	Glenwood High	224	100%	82%	1.4	63%	49%	GA	Pretoria High School For Girls'	260	100%	93%	2.3	70%	42%
GA	Greenside High School	165	100%	83%	1.1	48%	30%	EC	Queenstown Girls' High School	96	100%	90%	1.2	55%	25%
EC	Grey Boys' School	170	98%	91%	1.5	72%	38%	GA	Raucall Secondary School	94	100%	95%	1.3	95%	65%
FS	Grey-Kollege Secondary School	229	100%	87%	1.6	66%	47%	WC	Rhenish Girls' High School	112	100%	89%	1.7	56%	30%
LP	Harry Oppenheimer Secondary	132	100%	80%	1.8	89%	64%	WC	Rondebosch Boys' High School	149	100%	90%	1.4	92%	66%
NW	Hartbeespoort High School	167	100%	87%	1.2	41%	29%	WC	Rustenburg Girls' High School	142	100%	99%	2.4	82%	47%
KZ	Hillcrest High	155	100%	86%	1.3	46%	22%	KZ	Seatides Combined	52	100%	87%	1.9	58%	35%
WC	Hoër Jongenskool Paarl	144	100%	90%	1.5	60%	42%	EC	Selborne College Boys' High	124	100%	81%	1.6	53%	32%
GA	Hoërskool Centurion	252	100%	88%	1.5	44%	30%	FS	Sentraal Secondary School	210	99%	80%	1.8	37%	24%
GA	Hoërskool Eldoraigne	323	100%	84%	2.1	59%	40%	WC	South African College High School	140	100%	99%	2.0	80%	59%
MP	Hoërskool Ermelo	104	100%	86%	1.8	38%	29%	GA	Spring Boys' High School	118	99%	75%	1.1	52%	35%
GA	Hoërskool Garsfontein	304	100%	85%	1.8	56%	39%	FS	St Andrew's High School	57	100%	95%	1.8	61%	40%
GA	Hoërskool Linden	126	100%	85%	2.1	60%	35%	FS	St Michael's College School	59	100%	90%	1.5	53%	39%
GA	Hoërskool Menlopark	294	100%	92%	2.6	60%	41%	WC	Stellenberg High School	276	100%	85%	1.6	60%	29%
MP	Hoërskool Nelspruit	237	100%	84%	1.6	46%	33%	WC	Stellenbosch High School	137	100%	83%	1.6	49%	27%
GA	Hoërskool Noordheuwel	226	100%	82%	1.5	50%	24%	GA	Sutherland High School	252	100%	85%	1.3	56%	35%
GA	Hoërskool Overkrui	227	100%	88%	1.3	47%	34%	WC	Swellendam High School	64	100%	94%	1.3	34%	27%
GA	Hoërskool Randburg	174	99%	85%	1.6	53%	34%	EC	Victoria Girls' High School	80	100%	94%	1.5	43%	25%
GA	Hoërskool Transvalia	159	100%	75%	1.6	45%	40%	FS	Voortrekker Secondary School	143	100%	76%	1.8	35%	31%
GA	Hoërskool Waterkloof	394	100%	92%	2.1	70%	52%	WC	Westerford High School	168	100%	99%	3.4	73%	61%
GA	Hoërskool Zwartkop	311	99%	74%	1.5	50%	27%	KZ	Westville Boys' High	227	100%	95%	2.3	82%	59%
KZ	Howick High	108	100%	96%	1.7	50%	40%	KZ	Westville Girls' High	202	100%	100%	3.3	74%	41%
WC	Jan van Riebeck High School	100	100%	88%	1.9	59%	29%	NW	Wesvalia High School	157	100%	90%	1.7	43%	33%
GA	Jeppe Girls' High School	157	100%	96%	1.5	52%	27%	GA	Willowridge High School	214	100%	81%	1.4	57%	38%
FS	Jim Fouché Secondary School	259	100%	83%	1.5	44%	26%	WC	Wynberg Boys' High School	139	99%	88%	0.9	64%	37%
NC	Kimberley Girls' High School	108	100%	91%	1.9	32%	17%	WC	Wynberg Girls' High School	167	100%	94%	1.5	50%	31%
GA	King Edward VII School	204	100%	86%	0.7	50%	34%	WC	York High School	162	100%	83%	1.3	54%	31%

## Behind every good list, there lies a determined searcher

What was your brief for this project?  
To compile data from the 2008 National Senior Certificate and develop an index of school performance, which could be used to identify the top 100 schools.

Was this the most objective approach to identifying the top 100 schools?

The issue of "best" schools is an extremely subjective one, especially since an enormous proportion of school outcomes are determined by social class, the families' access to resources and the quality of the school environment. Given the data we had available, I think that this is a valid way of scoring schools. It would be preferable to include other factors in our index such as excellence in other subjects (we analysed only maths and science) and availability and participation in extra-curricula projects. In addition, factors which are very important in determining good schools but difficult to measure are:

- Those schools that "outperform" their environmental constraints.
- Those schools that take students from poorer-performing primary schools and manage a greater relative improvement in their students' scores.
- The extent to which schools are artificially inflating their scores by selecting stronger students in the first instance and pushing weaker students out of the school between grades 10 and 12.

Which institutions and organisations did you interact with while compiling the data?

I mostly liaised with the Department of Basic Education in terms of getting permission to run the study — this also meant that we discussed the criteria to be used with them. We did get feedback from various experts on the process of compiling the scores, as well as input from the Sunday Times editorial team.

Are you expecting criticism from schools on your means of identifying the top 100?  
Yes, there are many schools out there doing an excellent job that aren't on the list. I always feel sorry for the school that comes in at 101.

What criticism are you anticipating?  
Mainly about the constraints of the index and definition of a "good school". I also think the usual critics will take this opportunity to bash the Department of Basic Education.

Are you thoroughly satisfied that Westerford High School is indeed the top school in the country?  
Yes, in terms of these criteria. But I'm sure that even they will agree that they enrol learners with excellent primary-school preparation and from families who are able to give a lot of supplementary support to both the school and the learners themselves.

What are some interesting trends you identified?  
The outstanding performance of girls — both individual students and girls' schools, which are systematically on a par with their boys' school equivalent. While there tend to be fewer girls enrolled in science, which brings down their overall score, this is more than compensated for in the overall number of As they score. In most cases, this far exceeds those scored by boys.



Picture: RAYMOND PRESTON

### Prega Govender talks to Sunday Times Top 100 researcher Helen Perry

The racial integration of the former white schools is extremely varied across these top schools, ranging from as few as 1% or 2% African learners to 70% African learners. It is still quite shocking to me to see how many schools are not racially integrated, as much as I realise that this is principally a language issue.

The absence of former Coloured and Indian schools in the top 100 — while there are very few former African schools in the top 100, there is only one former Indian school and no former Coloured schools.

What is your most striking observation?

The depth and breadth of excellence that continues to exist in the state-school system — and not just in these top 100 schools. There are schools in all areas producing excellent results. These are the schools we tend to overlook and they should also be celebrated. Even though there may only be five or 10 or 15 students emerging from these schools with over 50% in maths or science, combined they produce by far the majority of our top students. A total of 53 445 learners who scored over 50% for mathematics are from schools not in the top 100.

What are some of the recommendations you would make to the Department of Basic Education?  
Definitely to continue to undertake studies such as this one, which systematically review the performance of schools. The department does do learner testing at primary schools but perhaps this could be expanded so that we have a national test score on which to evaluate primary schools.

I would also suggest that those schools which, under adverse conditions, are producing excellent students be identified for school improvement strategies. There are a number of initiatives run by the department, NGOs and the business community, which could be expanded and directly targeted at these schools that show potential. Good feeder primary schools should also receive acclaim and support.



# Stars of the past battle to cope today

Poverty, lack of resources, and discipline problems hurt former top schools

AGIZA HLONGWANE, PHILANI NOMBEMBE and PREGA GOVENDER

**O**NCE beacons of academic excellence under apartheid, coloured and Indian institutions like Livingstone High School in Cape Town and Durban Girls' Secondary School battle on today in the face of poverty and a lack of discipline and resources. So, for example, Durban Girls' Secondary School — once renowned for consistently achieving a 100% matric pass rate — while still good, did not crack the nod for this year's Top 100 Schools list.

Principal Dr Latchmie Bhagawat said the school was centrally situated and drew learners from all around Durban. "They're spending a lot of time travelling to school and back. And it's tiring," Bhagawat said. In addition, "They don't have the Internet available, proper libraries, I'm not making excuses for them, but that's the reality. A lot of them also head up households. They have the responsibility of getting home,

preparing meals and attending to younger ones." Ten years ago the school had a matric pass rate of 86%, and this kept dropping until in 2005 the government gave it a "last chance" to turn around. Bhagawat, who joined the school last year, conceded that although the pass rate had since risen to 95%, there was room for improvement in maths and science. "Maybe the girls are just not critical enough, maybe they need to work more on their application. But we're working more on maths and science exemplars and past papers. Hopefully that will make a difference this year." In 2008, the school got one B, one C and five Ds in maths. Township and rural schools have, meanwhile, blamed pupils' poor academic performance on the lack of discipline at the institutions. Eric Ndumande, a maths teacher at Tonteldoos Secondary School in Mpumalanga, said teachers, especially women, had had problems disciplining pupils. He said he would support any

move to return corporal punishment to the classroom. Albertina Semuli, a senior teacher at S C Kgobokwe outside Mafikeng in North West, said pupils were not motivated because of their home life, and many didn't have enough food to eat. In addition, the school had only one person to teach English in grades 10 to 12, which led to teacher burnout. Sabelo Ndlovu, headmaster of Esiyalwini Junior Secondary School in Soweto, said another problem was the lack of parent involvement. Even if parents attended meetings, they were not able to understand the policies and regulations of the education department, Ndlovu said. He said smaller classes in the former model C schools helped teachers there to produce top results. However, he said, matric results should not be the only yardstick to measure a school's academic performance. At one of Cape Town's former top coloured schools, Livingstone High School, it is a shortage of teachers and

material that is hindering learning. "Outcomes-Based Education is resource-driven and thus does not address educational inequities in schools where there is a shortage of resources," said Livingstone principal Alwyn Visagie. Visagie said the turnover in staff, increasing administrative demands and a shortage of skilled and experienced teachers all placed great stress on the ability to staff the school adequately. The matric pass rate had not dropped below 95% over the last decade — an achievement Visagie attributed to parents who were actively involved in their children's education.

**School:** Livingstone High School  
**Where:** Claremont, Cape Town  
**Number of pupils:** 920  
**Number of teachers:** 31 (29 paid by government, two maths and science teachers by school)  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 1:33  
**School fees:** R3 500 a year  
**Extramurals:** Include drama, quiz and debate, soccer, rugby and netball  
**Transformation:** "The school does not respond to any race-related questions"  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 158  
**Pass rate:** 98%  
**University entrance:** 75%  
**A symbols:** 76  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 51%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 37%

**School:** Durban Girls' Secondary School  
**Where:** Greyville  
**Number of pupils:** 758  
**Number of teachers:** 25 permanent, one temporary and one paid by the school governing board who is temporarily incapacitated  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 1:38 (estimated)  
**School fees:** R1 500. Only 20% of parents have paid  
**Extramurals:** Crafts club, principal's book club, reading period on Fridays, Latin dance club, poetry club, literary club, enviro club, peer counselling, netball, volleyball, swimming, sewing club, leadership training, interact club, debating, cookery club  
**Transformation:** 89.9% African, 6.8% Indian, 2.9% coloured and 0.3% white  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 96  
**Pass rate:** 95%  
**University entrance:** 31%  
**A symbols:** 49  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 7%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 3%



ADDING IT UP: Ihtishaam Galant, a pupil at Livingstone High School, Cape Town

Picture: ESA ALEXANDER

The buck stops here when it comes to matric . . .



PENNY VINJEVOILD is the deputy director-general of further education and training in the Department of Basic Education, and administers the senior certificate examinations. We asked her:

Why is it important to identify and publicise South Africa's top 100 state schools?

It's important to celebrate excellence and good practice in education.

Would you like this to be done on an annual basis?

One has to find different ways of doing it. This time round it was looking at maths and science excellence, which are the government's priorities. Perhaps, for the next one, one should look at other criteria so we can get a wider range of schools doing excellent work.

Are you happy with the criteria used this year?

Yes, but it is important to note that the schools profiled are top of these particular criteria.

What strikes you about the results?

I haven't looked at the list in any great detail, but a high number of single-sex schools have featured on the list, which is very interesting. There's also quite a substantial change in the race profile of some of the schools.

How do you feel about the fact that only three predominantly African schools featured in the top 100 list?

There are many schools featured in the top 100 that have many African learners enrolled there.

An issue of concern is the low numbers of black matriculants enrolled at Afrikaans-medium schools. How do you view this?

It's the nature of the language. African pupils prefer attending English-medium schools, but we will have to look into it.

What is being done to improve the quality of learning and teaching at former township schools?

There are a range of support projects at provincial and district level.

Based on the number of single-sex schools that featured in the top 100, do you subscribe to the view that single-sex schools generally do better than co-educational schools?

The data suggests that, as well as literature I have seen, but there is no clear-cut reason why this is the case. We need to look into it.

Your thoughts on Mbilwi in Limpopo and Metropolitan Raucal in Gauteng achieving the best physical science and maths results in the country?

It's outstanding. It's important to remember that these are dedicated maths and science schools.

Are schools receiving the necessary support from your department and the provinces?

The support provided to schools is very uneven. We visited 800 secondary schools this year and found that some schools were not getting sufficient support, while others were being supported by the districts.

What should a school be doing to achieve top academic results?

The time spent on teaching is very important. The school should also be highly disciplined and have well-qualified teachers, and there should be high-quality textbooks. The school must be well organised and there should be uninterrupted lessons for between five and six hours a day. The three T's — the teacher, time teaching and textbooks — should be used optimally. — Prega Govender

**NB: The percentage of pupils scoring over 50% in maths and science is measured as a total of all candidates who wrote Matric 2008 at each school.**

WESTERN CAPE						
School	Candidates	% Pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 Westerford High School	168	100%	99%	3.4	73%	61%
2 Rustenburg Girls' High	142	100%	99%	2.4	82%	47%
3 South African College High School	140	100%	99%	2.0	80%	59%
4 Rondebosch Boys' High	149	100%	90%	1.4	92%	66%
5 Bloemhof High School	125	100%	98%	2.9	66%	38%
6 Paul Roos Gimnasium	207	100%	90%	1.5	74%	54%
7 Cape Academy for Maths Science & Tech	78	100%	82%	0.8	85%	67%
8 Parel Vallei High School	220	100%	92%	1.8	59%	38%
9 Paarl Girls' High School	86	100%	94%	2.2	53%	27%
10 Hoër Jongenskool Paarl	144	100%	90%	1.5	60%	42%

  

NORTH WEST						
School	Candidates	% Pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 Potchefstroom Gimnasium	189	100%	93%	2.8	57%	44%
2 Fields College	75	100%	93%	1.7	43%	36%
3 Wesvalia High School	157	100%	90%	1.7	43%	33%
4 Potchefstroom Girls' High	104	100%	87%	1.4	44%	35%
5 Hartbeespoort High School	167	100%	87%	1.2	41%	29%
6 Ferdinand Postma	73	100%	82%	0.9	47%	32%
7 Rustenburg High School	250	100%	76%	1.3	42%	25%
8 Lichtenburg High School	197	100%	73%	1.1	42%	29%
9 Brits High School	211	100%	74%	1.2	37%	28%
10 Wolmaransstad High School	70	99%	79%	1.3	33%	24%

  

MPUMALANGA						
School	Candidates	% Pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 Hoërskool Nelspruit	237	100%	84%	1.6	46%	33%
2 Hoërskool Ermelo	104	100%	86%	1.8	38%	29%
3 Hoërskool Secunda	174	99%	71%	0.9	51%	36%
4 Hoërskool Middelburg	176	100%	69%	1.2	43%	27%
5 Hoërskool Piet Retief	106	100%	70%	1.0	42%	33%
6 Hoërskool Hoogenhout	105	100%	61%	1.0	42%	39%
7 Hoërskool Standerton	162	100%	78%	0.7	42%	23%
8 Hoërskool Rob Ferreira	126	100%	70%	1.0	38%	27%
9 Hoërskool Volksrust	80	96%	70%	0.7	39%	36%
10 HTS Witbank	173	99%	58%	0.8	46%	33%

## Respect, patriotism and a lack of stress are the keys to success

KAREN VAN ROOYEN and AGIZA HLONGWANE

NOT every school principal is brave enough to put his cellphone number on the school website, but Potchefstroom Gimnasium's Roelof Oosthuizen does just that. "It's my responsibility to be available to the parents, pupils and teachers," he says. "If someone is bothering me on the cellphone and I can hear it's someone joking or making nonsense, I can put it off." The North West Afrikaans-medium school is one of the top 10 in South Africa and number one in that province. Gimmies, as it is known, had a 100% pass rate last year and pupils know they must work hard, and not just "sit around".

"The teachers don't mind going the extra mile, they don't mind staying after hours. And then there's also the atmosphere and culture at the school," says Oosthuizen. "I try my best to make it a spontaneous and relaxed atmosphere so we don't have anxious pupils and teachers." Johan Visagie, the outgoing Gimmieraad chairman — a pupil body which organises school dances and other fun events — agrees that the teachers are "brilliant". "If you are down in class, they come to you and ask what's wrong and talk to you after school about your problems," the matric pupil says. Visagie said the relaxed environment at the school — and the teachers' ability to make pupils feel at home — played a huge role in maintaining discipline and keeping bullying to a minimum.

### Hoërskool Nelspruit sets the bar high for top marks

THE top state school in Mpumalanga prides itself on teaching its pupils



RELAX: Potchefstroom Gimnasium principal Roelof Oosthuizen, who frowns on anxiety, talks to pupil Refiloe Molebedi. Picture: KEVIN SUTHERLAND

**TOP SCHOOL IN NORTH WEST:** Potchefstroom Gimnasium  
**Where:** Potchefstroom  
**Number of pupils:** 980  
**Number of teachers:** 49 (14 paid by school, 35 by government)  
**Pupil-Teacher ratio:** 1:26  
**Extramurals:** Rugby, netball, creative writing, swimming, hockey, debating society  
**Transformation:** 2% African, 97% white, 1% coloured, 0% Indian  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 189  
**Pass rate:** 100%  
**University entrance:** 93%  
**A symbols:** 535  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 57%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 44%

respect, patriotism and balance. Hoërskool Nelspruit has achieved a 100% matric pass rate for the past five years. Principal Dr Louis Swanepoel believes the success of his school lies in the fact that it is a value-driven organisation. "We put a lot of emphasis on respect and values. We teach learners to respect themselves and respect other learners, teachers, parents and also traditions of the school. I think that's the key point." He said the school had some of the country's best sports and academic facilities — from sports fields to science laboratories — all of which had come from the parents. "That is part of the culture . . . that makes being at this school special,"

**TOP SCHOOL IN MPUMALANGA** Hoërskool Nelspruit  
**Where:** Nelspruit  
**Number of pupils:** 1 200  
**Number of teachers:** 55 (46 paid by government, nine by school)  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 1:30  
**School fee:** R7 900  
**Extramurals:** Swimming, underwater hockey, rugby, netball, cricket, athletics, tennis  
**Transformation:** White 99%, African 1%, coloured 0%, Indian 0%  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 237  
**Pass rate:** 100%  
**University entrance:** 84%  
**A symbols:** 361  
**Maths pass rate above 50%:** 46%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 33%

Swanepoel said. Although many of the school's 1 200 pupils come from well-to-do homes, some cannot afford to pay the R7 900 annual school fees, and it is then that parents and pupils again display their generosity. Out of a staff complement of 55 teachers, only one — the Swazi, or Swati, teacher — is African. Swazi is the predominant language in the region and compulsory for Grade 8 and 9 pupils at Hoërskool Nelspruit. "We believe in transformation, and we have learners of different cultures," Swanepoel said. The principal said the school was determined to convince its pupils not to leave the country after they graduate. "Our focus is to make them proud to be South Africans. Stay in South Africa, make a change here," Swanepoel said. Hoërskool Nelspruit was also involved in various community outreach programmes, and was busy with a project to broadcast science, biology and accounting lessons to schools in rural areas.

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RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

# Tutoring a real plus for maths pupils

Metropolitan-Raucall takes honours in crucial subject — with help from students

PREGA GOVENDER

**A**SCHOOL established 18 years ago to cater for previously disadvantaged pupils who were battling to pay school fees is the country's top maths performer among state schools.

Metropolitan-Raucall in Crosby, Johannesburg, established by the former Rand Afrikaans University (now the University of Johannesburg or UJ), achieved a maths rating of 95% — the highest rating among all Top 100 state schools.

This means that 95%, or 89 of Raucall's 94 candidates who wrote maths last year, achieved a pass of 50% or more in the subject.

Rondebosch Boys' High School in Cape Town produced the second-best maths results among state schools.

Since 1996, when its first batch of matriculants sat the exams, Raucall has had a 100% matric pass rate.

Pupils qualify for enrolment to the school on the basis of two criteria: that they should be from a disadvantaged background and that they are able to cope with maths, physical science, accounting and economics.

The school had a single white matriculant last year, and again this year.

Maths pupils at the school are tutored by students from UJ on Monday and Wednesday afternoons in an initiative known as the maths advancement programme.

The school's principal, Marietta Westerberg, said teachers also remained at school for one afternoon every week to provide extra lessons to maths pupils.

"We are really honoured to be the top maths school. We have a team of passionate, hard-working and disciplined teachers. They are well prepared, which gives learners self-confidence because the syllabus is completed ahead of schedule," she said.

The school is assisted financially by its two main sponsors, UJ and Metropolitan.

The school's head of department for maths, Desiree Levendis, said a culture of hard work had been created at the school.

"We also make maths fun and interesting by having fun days and Olympiads. We try to keep up with the latest technology by using interactive whiteboards," she said.

Said Grade 11 pupil Moshe Mofokeng: "Metropolitan-Raucall is a home away from home for all its learners. All learners get their fair share of individual attention. Teachers are also always willing to listen."

Another pupil, Luehle Francke, said: "Our teachers are extremely dedicated and it's fun learning."

All pupils have free access to the UJ library.

"The majority of our pupils end up at the UJ after matric," said Westerberg.



TOP 10 MATHS SCHOOLS

Prov.	School	% Maths
1	GA Raucall Secondary School	95%
2	WC Rondebosch Boys' High School	92%
3	LP Harry Oppenheimer Secondary	89%
4	WC Cape Academy For Maths Science & Tech	85%
5	KZ Westville Boys' High	82%
6	WC Rustenburg Girls' High School	82%
7	WC South African College High School	80%
8	LP Mbilwi Secondary	80%
9	GA Pretoria Boys' High School	75%
10	WC Paul Roos Gimnasium	74%

TOP MATHS SCHOOL:

**Metropolitan-Raucall**  
**Where:** Crosby, Johannesburg  
**Number of pupils:** 511  
**Number of teachers:** 22 (19 paid by government, three by school)  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 1:35  
**School fees:** R1 900 a year  
**Extramurals:** Chess and debating  
**Transformation:** 51% African, 33% Indian, 15% coloured and 1% white  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 94  
**Pass rate:** 100%  
**University entrance:** 95%  
**A symbols:** 123  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 95%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 65%



MULTIPLIER: Desiree Levendis, who heads the maths department at the country's top maths performer among state schools, Metropolitan-Raucall

Picture: RAYMOND PRESTON

# Mbilwi has big classes, better results

PREGA GOVENDER

**W**HILE matric classes of 30 pupils are the norm at most former model C schools, physical science teacher Banu Sankaran had to teach an average of 54 pupils.

But this did not prevent the feisty deputy principal of Mbilwi Secondary in Limpopo from producing the best physical science results in the country last year.

Mbilwi, eighth overall on the 2008 top 100 list, beat well-resourced schools such as Westerford High, Westville Girls' High and Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool in physical science.

What makes the school's achievement more remarkable is the fact that until two years ago it had no laboratory.

"We acquired two laboratories, for physics and chemistry, but only the furniture and the electrical and gas connections were provided. We had to stock the labs ourselves and make them functional," said Sankaran.

Her pupils produced 21 As, 13 Bs and 58 Cs last year.

Mbilwi scored 75% for physical science — the highest rating among the top 100 schools. This rating means that 150 of Mbilwi's 201 candidates who wrote physical science achieved 50% and better.

The Cape Academy of Mathematics, Science and Technology in Constantia produced the second-best results in physical science.

The academy, which registered its first group of matriculants only in 2006, was established by the Western Cape Education Department in 2004 as an initiative to provide specialised schooling for pupils with the potential to excel in maths and science.

Last year, the school's 78 matriculants achieved a 100% pass rate in English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, maths, physical science, information technology, computer application technology, life



TOP 10 SCIENCE SCHOOLS

Prov.	School	% Science
1	LP Mbilwi Secondary	75%
2	WC Cape Academy for Maths Science & Tech	67%
3	WC Rondebosch Boys' High School	66%
4	GA Raucall Secondary School	65%
5	LP Harry Oppenheimer Secondary	64%
6	WC Westerford High School	61%
7	GA Pretoria Boys' High School	61%
8	WC South African College High School	59%
9	KZ Westville Boys' High	59%
10	GA Parktown Boys' High School	59%

sciences, accounting and life orientation.

Nationally, only 33 751 candidates of the 216 364 who wrote physical science last year achieved a pass of 50% and more.

Mbilwi identifies pupils weak in matric subjects at the beginning of the year and gives them extra tuition and attention for four days a week until they write their final exams.

As early as January this year, Sankaran identified 120 out of 217 pupils who needed extra attention.

"I gave them extra lessons for four days a week. Now I only have a few who still need attention," she said.

Twenty-three matric pupils failed

physical science in the recent trial exams, but Sankaran expects all of them to pass their final exams.

Among the problems dogging the school is the issue of pupils sharing study guides. Another is financing trips when pupils are selected to represent the school in science competitions.

One of her Grade 10 pupils, Dzedzema Ruzani, was selected to represent the country at the international junior science Olympiad in Turkey from December 1 to 11. A total of R15 000 is needed for airfares and accommodation.

Grade 11 physical science teacher



WINNING FORMULA: Pupils at Mbilwi Secondary School are in a class of their own in physical science

Picture: SIMON MATHEBULA

TOP SCIENCE SCHOOL:

**Mbilwi Secondary School**  
**Where:** Thohoyandou  
**Number of pupils:** 2 137  
**Number of teachers:** 57 (52 paid by government, five by school)  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 37:1  
**School fee:** R600  
**Extramurals:** Debates, maths and science olympiads, soccer, volleyball, cricket.  
**Transformation:** 100% African  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 201  
**Pass rate:** 100%  
**University entrance:** 93%  
**A symbols:** 309  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 80%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 75%

Mpho Gethe, who teaches 391 pupils chemistry, has been providing extra tuition on Saturdays since the beginning of the year.

"We have produced top results for so long that we have now become accustomed to it," he said.

Mbilwi's principal, Nditsheni Ramugondo, said most schools made the mistake of focusing only on Grade 12s.

"I believe that if you take care of your pupils in Grades 8 to 11, you won't have a problem when they come to Grade 12," he said. "Strangely, in this school, kids fail Grades 8, 9, 10 and 11, but nobody fails Grade 12," he said.

TOP SCHOOL IN FREE STATE:

**St Andrew's School**  
**Where:** Bloemfontein  
**Number of pupils:** 676  
**Number of teachers:** 42  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 1:20  
**School fees:** R3 730 a quarter  
**Extramurals:** Include rugby, soccer, cricket, hockey, squash, tennis, swimming, athletics, basketball, scuba diving, chess, debating, drama, choir and music  
**Transformation:** 50% white, 50% African  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 57  
**Pass rate:** 100%  
**University entrance:** 95%  
**A symbols:** 90  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 61%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 40%

Founded in 1863 by the Anglican Church, the school has a record of promoting racial integration, and continues to try to eliminate the racial divide.

"In line with Christian principles, the school attempted to promote contact with other races before it was acceptable to the government. From the early '60s, the school initiated informal sports contacts with black schools. We also unsuccessfully applied to admit boys from other race groups at the time," he said.

"The pupil population includes learners from all racial and cultural backgrounds, and we celebrate and respect diversity."

Speaking about the sense of community at the school, Thomas said: "We invite past learners to address learners, as we believe that (role) modelling is an important tool to assist with the development of the current learners."

"Perhaps the greatest challenge is to support children who are under increasing pressure from society, which blurs the distinction between right and wrong. The school sets high standards and insists that boys respect authority figures."

# Single-sex education proves a winner

TOP SCHOOL IN KWAZULU NATAL:

**Westville Girls High School**  
**Where:** Westville, Durban  
**Number of pupils:** 1 084  
**Number of teachers:** 62 (29 paid by school)  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 1:30  
**School fees:** R12 600 a year  
**Extramurals:** Include rock climbing, badminton, soccer, horse-riding, vaulting, debating, public speaking, interact club  
**Transformation:** 19% African, 1-2% coloured, 40% Indian, 40% white  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 203  
**Pass rate:** 100%  
**University entrance:** 99%  
**A symbols:** 657  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 74%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 41%

AGIZA HLONGWANE

**DURBAN'S** Westville Girls' High School strives to produce shiny, happy people — and the pupils just got happier following the crowning of the institution as the top state school in KwaZulu-Natal. It has also come second overall in the latest Sunday Times Top 100 Schools project.

Principal Mary Johnstone was over the moon about the news, but was hardly surprised that the school — founded in 1964 — had done well.

"We also did well in 1998 during the last Top 100 Schools project. We always monitor ourselves to ensure that we keep up the highest standards possible."

The school has achieved a 100% matric pass rate every year for the past 18 years, regardless of the changes in curriculum.

"You must always keep abreast of changes in the curriculum. You also need to be very careful in the buying of textbooks. In the new curriculum there's a lot to interpret, so... rather

than buy one textbook per subject, we buy a set so we're working with a variety of interpretations," said Johnstone.

Pupils have done outstandingly in English, although they are equally competitive in other subjects. "Our highest number of distinctions comes from English. If their English is good, it enhances their performance in other subjects. But my teachers all work very hard. I don't have any weak or mediocre subjects," she said.

With annual school fees of R12 960, she believes the school offers value for money.

The pupils are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities, including debating and community outreach programmes, and have a choice of up to 22 sports codes.

"If people have a narrow focus, it tends to limit their development, so we encourage them to explore and find what brings out the best in them."

With 1 084 pupils — 40% white, 40% Indian, 19% black and 1% coloured — the school strives to

promote sensitivity, tolerance and harmonious interaction with others.

St Andrew's School

FOR the past 15 years St Andrew's School in the Free State has maintained a 100% pass rate. The all-boys school attributes its continued success to its traditional values, parental involvement and commitment to balancing academics with extra-murals.

The school prides itself on encouraging its pupils to participate in extra-mural activities — something principal Chris Thomas believes is intrinsically linked to academic excellence.

"We believe that a child's self-concept improves with success in a variety of fields. With a confident, focused individual who has learnt to work with others and discipline himself comes academic achievement," said Thomas.

With an annual budget of R9-million for its 676 pupils, the school has facilities for most major sporting codes and cultural activities.

School	Candidates	% Pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 Mbilwi Secondary	201	100%	93%	1.5	80%	75%
2 Harry Oppenheimer Secondary	132	100%	80%	1.8	89%	64%
3 Dendron Secondary	93	98%	78%	1.7	67%	38%
4 St Brendan's Catholic Secondary	123	100%	73%	1.2	46%	31%
5 Louis Trichardt Secondary	151	100%	68%	1.4	44%	28%
6 Hoërskool Ben Viljoen	108	99%	77%	1.4	30%	24%
7 Hoërskool Ben Vorster	152	100%	74%	1.0	40%	21%
8 Glen Cowie Secondary	79	97%	62%	1.1	43%	30%
9 Hoërskool Nylstroom	115	100%	67%	1.1	36%	26%
10 Hoërskool Pietersburg	256	99%	77%	1.1	34%	14%

School	Candidates	% Pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 Westville Girls' High	202	100%	100%	3.3	74%	41%
2 Westville Boys' High	227	100%	95%	2.3	82%	59%
3 Durban Girls' High	233	100%	96%	2.9	61%	47%
4 Danville Park Girls' High	153	100%	99%	2.7	60%	37%
5 Pietermaritzburg Girls' High	218	100%	96%	2.4	60%	35%
6 Northlands Girls' High	112	100%	96%	2.4	56%	26%
7 Maritzburg College	223	100%	88%	1.8	61%	42%
8 Ladysmith High	182	100%	88%	1.8	57%	40%
9 Durban High	184	99%	79%	1.5	67%	46%
10 Glenwood High	224	100%	82%	1.4	63%	49%

School	Candidates	% Pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 St Andrew's College School	57	100%	95%	1.8	61%	40%
2 Grey-Kollege Secondary School	229	100%	87%	1.6	66%	47%
3 Eunice Secondary School	168	100%	93%	1.8	51%	43%
4 St Michael's College School	59	100%	90%	1.5	53%	39%
5 C and NH Meisieskool Oranje	148	100%	86%	2.0	37%	22%
6 Jim Fouché Secondary School	259	100%	83%	1.5	44%	26%
7 Voortrekker Secondary School	143	100%	76%	1.8	35%	31%
8 Sentraal Secondary School	210	99%	80%	1.8	37%	24%
9 Afrikaanse Hoërskool Kroonstad	92	100%	64%	1.8	52%	24%
10 Witteberg Secondary School	120	100%	73%	1.3	38%	35%

**GAUTENG**

School	Candidates	% pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool	168	100%	99%	3.7	58%	43%
2 Raucall Secondary School	94	100%	95%	1.3	95%	65%
3 Pretoria Boys' High School	304	100%	95%	1.5	75%	61%
4 Hoërskool Waterkloof	394	100%	92%	2.1	70%	52%
5 Pretoria High School for Girls	260	100%	93%	2.3	70%	42%
6 Hoërskool Menlopark	294	100%	92%	2.6	60%	41%
7 Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool	217	100%	95%	1.8	69%	44%
8 Parktown Girls' High School	205	100%	97%	2.0	68%	37%
9 Parktown Boys' High School	158	99%	90%	1.5	68%	59%
10 Hoërskool Eldoraigne	323	100%	84%	2.1	59%	40%

**EASTERN CAPE**

School	Candidates	% pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 Clarendon Girls' High School	143	100%	92%	1.9	68%	38%
2 Collegiate Girls' High School	150	100%	93%	1.9	65%	39%
3 Grey Boys' School	170	98%	91%	1.5	72%	38%
4 Selborne College Boys' High	124	100%	81%	1.6	53%	32%
5 Kingsridge High School	80	100%	96%	1.4	49%	28%
6 Victoria Girls' High School	80	100%	94%	1.5	43%	25%
7 Queenstown Girls' High School	96	100%	90%	1.2	55%	25%
8 Alexander Road High School	228	100%	78%	1.8	48%	25%
9 Pearson High School	123	99%	70%	1.0	57%	35%
10 Stirling High School	209	100%	78%	0.8	50%	30%

**NORTHERN CAPE**

School	Candidates	% pass	% University exemption	Average A's per pupil	% Maths >50	% Science >50
1 Kimberley Girls' High School	108	100%	91%	1.9	32%	17%
2 Hoërskool Upington	110	100%	78%	1.1	41%	33%
3 Hoërskool Diamantveld	143	97%	63%	1.1	40%	27%
4 Kimberley Boys' High School	80	98%	76%	0.8	34%	26%
5 Hoërskool Noord-Kaap	194	100%	72%	0.9	33%	21%
6 Hoërskool Duineveld	157	100%	61%	1.1	36%	19%
7 Hoërskool Namakwaland	92	100%	57%	0.4	43%	26%
8 Hoërskool De Aar	50	100%	50%	1.0	40%	16%
9 Hoërskool Calvinia	69	97%	55%	0.7	22%	16%
10 Hoërskool Postmasburg	62	97%	40%	1.4	11%	13%

Graphic: FIONA KRISCH

**STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE**



**ACHIEVERS:** Members of the Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool netball team. They are, clockwise from left, Rozanne Vermaak, Nicole Olivier, Tinarie van der Merwe, Gerda Roux, Charmara Holthausen and Lisa Marie Wiese. Picture: SIMPHIVE NKWALI

**TOP A-AGGREGATE SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY**  
**Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool**  
**Where:** Pretoria  
**Number of pupils:** 1 020  
**Number of teachers:** 55 (about two-thirds paid by government)  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 1:30  
**School fees:** R15 000 a year  
**Extramurals:** Netball, hockey, athletics, swimming, choir, debating, drama  
**Transformation:** 1% African, 99% white, 0% coloured, 0% Indian  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 168  
**Pass rate:** 100%  
**University entrance:** 99%  
**A symbols:** 617  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 58%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 43%

**A record of excellence**

Sisterhood in which pupils draw strength from each other

**KAREN VAN ROOYEN**

**C**LASSICAL music welcomes the 1 020 pupils every morning and a window near the media centre contains an inspirational message for the day.

For the birthday girl there is a paper flower pinned to her school dress to distinguish her from the others — and she has a party with her classmates and friends on the lawns to celebrate.

Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool in Pretoria is the top school in Gauteng, one of the top 10 in the country, and the school with the most A symbols achieved — proving that girls are smarter than boys.

Lize Stofberg, head girl at the school, has attended since Grade 8 and is hoping to add to the school's proud academic history when she sits for her matric exam later this month.

"Because we are a girls' school, there is this camaraderie and spirit that motivates us to work harder," she said ahead of her matric dance last week.

"It's not just about academic achievement, it's also about fulfilling and supporting each other in all respects. The school has a sisterhood,

one big family in which we stand together and draw strength from each other."

The school, which turns 90 in January next year, was initially co-ed. In 1930, it split in two, and Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool was established.

School spokesman Magda du Preez said the school had many traditions, including the lawn birthday parties and the red caps the girls wear every Friday.

"For the past 23 years we have had a 100% pass rate. For the past two years we have been the best in the district. Last year we were the best in the province. We want to maintain this record," said Du Preez.

"The difference between girls and boys is that girls are more conscientious. Girls are also more disciplined and are natural leaders."

Marna Jordaan, the school's principal since last January, lists five important tips to success:

- A strong work ethic among both teachers and pupils;
- Dedication;
- Good leadership;
- Strong organisational skills; and
- Teamwork.

She also said it was important to

remain humble about achievements.

"You find yourself in a comfort zone that for the past 23 years you had (a 100% pass rate), so you'll just do it again..." she said.

The school has one teacher for every 30 pupils, and Du Preez said the school did well academically because teachers were always prepared and kept to a strict time schedule.

Stofberg agreed that the teachers put in an "unbelievable effort", as did school governing body chairman Jack van der Merwe, who has a daughter in Grade 10.

"While there's no single recipe for success, I think the school has succeeded because it has a culture of learning — the girls write tests every Tuesday and Thursday," said Van der Merwe. "It's proof that one can go to a government school and still get a good education without paying thousands of rands."

Stofberg said she thought the balance between academic and extramural brought out the best in pupils.

"It's a privilege to be here," she said. "I've grown so much as a person in this school. It has given me more opportunities than I could ever ask for."

—vanrooyen@sundaytimes.co.za



**TOP 10 DISTINCTIONS PER PUPIL**

Prov.	Centre name	Average A's per pupil
1 GA	Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool	3.67
2 WC	Westerford High School	3.42
3 KZ	Westville Girls' High	3.28
4 WC	Bloemhof High School	2.90
5 KZ	Durban Girls' High	2.89
6 NW	Potchefstroom Gimnasium	2.83
7 KZ	Danville Park Girls' High	2.69
8 GA	Hoërskool Menlopark	2.61
9 KZ	Northlands Girls' High	2.44
10 KZ	Pietermaritzburg Girls' High	2.38

Graphic: FIONA KRISCH

**Tradition of hard work bears fruit**

**PHILANI NOMBEMBE**

**G**OOD old-fashioned hard work has helped Clarendon Girls' High School in East London maintain a 100% pass rate for the past 16 years.

However, school principal Owen Nel said his job was not without challenges.

"It's hard keeping people motivated despite a Department of Education that is generally dysfunctional, where, among other things, posts remain vacant for up to three years, circulars arrive late... the list goes on," he said.

Transformation at the school began 19 years ago when the community voted in favour of an open admissions policy.

Nel is a strong believer in the "tradition of hard work".

Nel's tips for a successful school include:

- Getting the basics right — punctuality, mutual respect, teachers who are ready to teach from day one, pupils who are ready to learn from day one and children who are equipped with all the necessary textbooks and stationery;
- Focusing on areas you are good at;
- Being innovative and willing to pick up the pieces if anything goes wrong;
- Instilling pride — make

sure that the buildings and surroundings are safe, secure, clean and attractive; and

- Having fun — ensure that school is a joyful and memorable experience.

**Kimberley's pride**

**DISCIPLINE**, involved parents and dedicated teachers are the recipe for success at Kimberley Girls' High School in the Northern Cape.

School principal Helen Hugo says the school is not just a school, it is a caring community where "no one is just a number".

Consistent discipline is one of the pillars that have kept the school going strong for over a century.

Hugo says there is a correlation between good academic achievement, sport and extramurals.

"We've always had a good matric pass rate. We easily manage a 100% rate."

Classes comprise 30 pupils and fees are R6 600 a year.

Hugo's tips for success:

- Teachers who teach;
- Creation of a caring community where no one is just a number;
- Consistency in discipline;
- Recognition of the achievements of staff and pupils; and
- A capable and supportive school governing body.

**TOP SCHOOL IN NORTHERN CAPE:**

**Kimberley Girls' High School**  
**Where:** Kimberley  
**Number of pupils:** 600  
**Number of teachers:** 31 (21 paid by government, 10 by school)  
**Pupil-teacher ratio:** 1:32  
**School fees:** R6 600 a year  
**Extramurals:** Include music, debate, chess, hockey, netball and rhythmic  
**Transformation:** 60% African, 24% coloured and 7% Indian  
**Matric 2008 candidates:** 108  
**Pass rate:** 100%  
**University entrance:** 91%  
**A symbols:** 201  
**Maths pass above 50%:** 32%  
**Science pass above 50%:** 17%



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- a microcosm of international and African education and culture in which to foster unity and development, as well as preparation for a globalised world.
- maximum class size 25/1

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**WESTVILLE GIRLS' HIGH**

**OUTSTANDING MATRIC RESULTS**

100% Pass  
**657** Subject A's  
 99% Bachelors Pass

**SUBJECT DISTINCTIONS**

English	104	Accounting	30
Afrikaans	37	History	34
Zulu	15	Geography	28
Maths Lit	72	Life Orientation	94
Science	35	Economics	24
Life Sciences	65	Business Studies	11
Visual Arts	27	Drama	35

**NO. OF DISTINCTIONS ACHIEVED PER LEARNER**

5 Learners achieved 9 Distinctions  
 4 Learners achieved 8 Distinctions  
 17 Learners achieved 7 Distinctions  
 28 Learners achieved 6 Distinctions  
 28 Learners achieved 5 Distinctions

**POSTCARD**

Five learners a one teacher were chosen to represent KZN at the first ever International Summer Camp in Shanghai. They met up with students from Australia, Canada, China, France, Israel & New Zealand for two weeks of exposure to Chinese culture, the amazing sights of Shanghai & team-building exercises.

**VISION:**  
 To create an environment where learners apply academic knowledge, critical thinking, and communication skills to support a healthy lifestyle and successful integration into the community.

**SPECTACULAR: A Dance Production**

**VALUES:**

- Integrity:** To act with honesty and be trustworthy.
- Respect:** To build an environment that is disciplined, compassionate & caring.
- Passion:** To live with passion by doing everything with excellence.
- Diversity:** To celebrate differences.
- Commitment:** To persevere, to be loyal, to support with respect.

**Dignity In Diversity**