

F. Educational Opportunities:

1. Philosophy -- R.V.A. seeks to provide a broad based education which assists students in preparing for successful living and entrance into schools of higher learning. The goal is not specialization but an exposure to a variety of disciplines. While avoiding the temptation of being trendy, the Academy seeks to keep abreast of current educational trends and tries to incorporate those which have a solid foundation in research into its program. Since most of the students regularly return, at least for short periods of time, to schools in their home countries, R.V.A. seeks to provide the kind of educational experience that will make such transition as successful as possible. Whenever possible, current technology is used to equip students for future studies and work. The school also recognizes the need to offer a selection of practical courses to enrich the experience of college-bound students while providing meaningful opportunities for non college-bound students. The school reserves the right to limit its enrollment to those students who have sufficient academic ability and emotional stability to profit from the type of education offered. R.V.A. regrets that it is not able to educate students with severe physical or learning disabilities.
2. Applications
 - a. Classes are kept to a size that allows teachers the opportunity to spend time with individual students and small groups, thus encouraging maximum development of academic skills.
 - b. A standardized testing program is used to determine individual strengths and weaknesses, as well as degree of learning. The testing program also helps identify strengths and weaknesses in the curriculum and/or instruction which is then communicated to the appropriate individuals.
 - c. Close cooperation between teachers, dorm parents, and guidance counselors ensures assistance in areas where students need help.
 - d. A tutorial program has been established to provide extra help in areas where individual students have shown weaknesses.
 - e. The Elementary school curriculum is designed to teach skills essential for good study habits as well as to provide a base upon which more advanced studies may be built.
 - f. The Secondary educational program is designed to enable students to meet the entrance requirements of most North American schools of higher learning. In addition, courses are designed with outcomes intended to provide for the development of practical skills, personal enrichment and individual growth so that students may become productive citizens wherever they may live.
 - g. A wide variety of AP and advanced courses are offered.
 - h. An increasing number of courses and units are being provided to assist students from non-North American countries to meet their educational and cultural needs including a British I.G.C.S.E. program.
 - i. Technology is being introduced not only as a means of teaching but as a life skill. There is a computer literacy requirement for graduation and technology related courses are available.

- j. Courses are offered in an industrial arts/technology education program designed to make students technologically literate. While this program incorporates academic knowledge, it also provides students with the opportunity to develop manual skills.
- k. A selection of introductory level elective courses, one school term in duration, are offered that allow students to investigate diverse fields of study, prohibited by otherwise heavy academic schedules.
- l. Special enrichment opportunities include:
 - (1) Interim studies (a five-day program for juniors and seniors including cultural and environmental studies in Africa). The elementary school has a scaled down version known as “Sixth Grade Safari.”
 - (2) Artistic, dramatic and cultural experiences both on and off campus.
 - (3) Independent study programs meeting individual needs or interests.
 - (4) Regular outreach, service and ministry opportunities.
 - (5) Work experience (laundry, library, Studie, store, etc.).
 - (6) Extra-curricular activities, including chess team and writing competitions.
 - (7) Model United Nations.
 - (8) Field trips into Kenyan culture, geological studies at Hell’s Gate, and visits to religious centers in Nairobi.
- m. Libraries are maintained that offer not only a wide range of reading materials but many reference tools to aid in course work and independent research.
- n. A limited ESL and an LD program are provided.
- o. Accreditation is valued as a means of assessing the quality of the school's educational program.