

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: Jeffrey Kanyama

Gender: Male

Date of birth: 19th August 1993

Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Mother: Violet Tembo

Profession: Office Assistant

Father: Deceased

Primary School: Chibelo Basic School

Secondary School: **Leopards Hill Secondary School**

2010 Level: **Grade 11**



Family Background:

Jeffrey is the youngest of five children and has been raised by his mother. Violet works as an office assistant for an organization that works in malaria prevention. Sadly, Jeffrey never knew his father very well, who passed away in 1998. Jeffrey's mother Violet has always lived in Lusaka and raised her family there. Prior to her current position, she worked in different places as a housemaid.

Violet's oldest child, Jeffrey's sister, is now a married woman and also working as a maid. The second and third children are 29 and 24 respectively both not working. The fourth, Jeffrey's brother named Kelvin, is currently in Grade 11 at Lusaka Boys Secondary School. Finally, Violet takes care of a niece also, who is 11 years old and in Grade 5.

Jeffrey's Educational Background:

Primary- Chibelo Basic School

Jeffrey attended Chibelo School from Grade 1 through 7 and maintained an extraordinary academic standing. He is an extremely high-achieving and gifted student, who earned the top position in his class from Grade 1 to Grade 7.

Jeffrey's favorite subjects in primary school were Mathematics and Science.

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Outside of class, Jeffrey enjoyed learning at the HIV/AIDS Resource Center at Chibelo School, where he learned more about HIV/AIDS and volunteered as a peer educator and counselor.

His dream is to become a teacher. In his application, Jeffrey wrote that he would like a scholarship because it will help him achieve that dream in his life.

At Leopards Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

Jeffrey was a shining example of academic excellence during his first year at Leopards Hill. He won various awards for being first in specific subjects including a calculator in Mathematics, a textbook in Civics, a textbook in Information Technology, a dictionary in French, and a picture frame in Office Practice. His favorite subjects were History, Mathematics, French and Geography. He commented on how he wasn't so good in those subjects in the past, but he put in a lot of effort to improve.

Grade 9

In grade 9 Jeffrey continued to obtain high marks in his various subjects. His favorite subjects were History, Mathematics and English. The competition this year has stiffened as other KF students battle for the top positions in his class. He still managed to maintain his position among the top four students in the class which is quite an accomplishment.

At the 2008 Awards ceremony held at Leopards Hill Secondary School, Jeffrey received awards for 2nd position in Mathematics, History, and Information Technology.

Grade 10

Jeffrey had an outstanding year. He was selected by his peers to act as class monitor and, as such, was responsible for keeping order in his class, collecting assignments, and making sure the classroom was orderly. He says his classmates recognize him as conscientious understanding—he regularly helps his classmates with their work in math and science. In academics he continues to excel in the math and sciences. He has elected to take additional mathematics, a class which explores more advanced topics. While Jeffrey struggled at first, receiving a 33% on his first test, by term three he was at the top of his class with 76%. He was able to improve his performance by organizing study sessions with his classmates to go over particularly difficult topics. Jeffrey also took agricultural science as an elective, planting maize and rape. Their harvest was able to provide a meal for the entire school, and he even brought rape home to his family!

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Grade 10 Academic Achievements:

- 1st position in Physics, Additional Mathematics and Chemistry
- 2nd position in Mathematics, Religious Education, Biology and Literature

Jeffrey's Interests:

Extracurricular Activities

Before becoming a part of the KF program, Jeffrey loved to play soccer and video games, as well as reading and swimming. Drawing was also one of his talents.

At Leopards Hill Jeffrey is a member of the JETS club which teaches him how to debate and think quickly under pressure. He feels he has become quicker at giving accurate answers to certain questions. He is also a talented gymnast and has become more flexible and able to do various stunts. During the KF cultural day, he performed for his peers and parents, choreographing a dance that included a twist and even a back flip. He also is a member of the Leopard's Hill soccer team, playing both striker and keeper, with his flexibility helping him save even the hardest shots.

Community Service

During his holidays, Jeffrey along with two other KF students, Japhet and Abram, spearheaded a project to tutor children in the compounds who do not attend school ("street children"). They divide the children by ability and then help them with reading and math basics. Jeffrey said that it is at times difficult to control so many kids, however, with the help of Japhet and Abram, they can see that the students are making progress. He says, "The children have benefited so much that since their parents did not complete their education, they also want us to be teaching them how to read write and speak English."

Jeffrey's Relationship with his Mentor:

Jeffrey has a strong relationship with his mentor, Ms. Kutemba. She helps him in his studies and recognized in him the potential to become an engineer. "Ms. Kutemba encourages me to work hard and not lose this opportunity." She recognized Jeffrey's strengths in math and told him of the many opportunities for engineers. During their most recent visit, they went to visit a community school which she founded in New Kasama. Jeffrey is planning to help at the school during his holidays, tutoring the students in math and reading.

Jeffrey's Career Interests and Work Experience:

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While Jeffrey once wanted to become a teacher, his aspirations have changed over time—because of his love of science and math, he has expressed a goal of becoming an engineer or doctor. He combines a natural gift of math and science with a meticulous nature that makes him believe that he will succeed. He is also inspired by the example of his uncle who is a doctor. His uncle is always the one helping his family when there are problems—he tends to the sick in his family and helps them overcome during times of hardship. Jeffrey hopes to one day be like his uncle, able to save lives and act as a leader within his family and community.

During the December holiday, Jeffrey participated in a week of work experience at an engineering firm. He said he was impressed by the detail-oriented nature of engineering—“small mistake can ruin the entire project.” He also was able to watch as the engineers planned elaborate drawings on the computer—“I was surprised by how difficult it was to do the drawings on the computer, you have to be careful and very creative.” Jeffrey also went on site, visiting the construction site where the engineers were beginning an office building. He watched as the engineers supervised the laying of the foundation and the preparation of the materials. While he was amazed by how busy the engineers were, it further confirmed to him that with his skills in mathematics, he would make an excellent engineer.

What the teachers think of Jeffrey:

Jeffrey’s teachers say that he is intelligent, well behaved, and extremely deserving of a scholarship. Jeffrey has a strong interest in school and performs much better than many other students who have fewer problems.

Jeffrey’s Thoughts

“There are a lot of things that I am enjoying and experiencing as a KF member. I enjoyed the new knowledge given to me by the KF tutor Mr. Nyirenda. We were behind in a lot of subjects but he managed to put us on the right track. I thank him so much for his good work. I also thank KF members for everything they have done for me. We don’t have to buy text books from anywhere, and we have enough clothes, shoes, and beddings. I appreciate the advice that we shouldn’t compare ourselves to other people because we know what we came here to do. This helps me control myself whenever anyone troubles me because I remember why I am here.

KF has exposed me to people, places and other schools. My classes in primary school had forty people, but at Leopards Hill, they are much smaller and my teachers are more willing to help. I am inspired by my teacher Mr. Buchisa who teaches additional mathematics and physics. He is my best teacher, and I admire

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his confidence. He is also always willing to give me extra help when I do not understand.”

Jeffrey is also inspired by the example of his fellow KF scholars: “they are hard-working and encourage me to work harder. Iwell inspires me by the way he speaks.”

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