

Gibson School Systems Objectives and Goals: The Whole Child Approach

The Gibson School Systems was founded by one family in 1999 with a kindergarten and primary division with the desire to offer high quality education to the children and young adults of Ethiopia. Today the Gibson School Systems span across the city of Addis Ababa with divisions from kindergarten all the way to preparatory college on the east, center and west sides of town. The main goal of the Gibson School Systems is to strengthen the country by preparing students to be the future leaders of Ethiopia by teaching strong academic, ethics, patriotism, and initiative. Our school focuses on good citizenship, academics, and preparing students for the grade 8, 10, and 12 national matriculation examinations. Our students have scored top scores on these exams every year, and graduates have achieved scholarships abroad and top places nationally in their studies at the university level. We urge creative learning and encourage that all of our students will attend the university and achieve all their personal dreams while contributing to the advancement of the great nation of Ethiopia. Our system can be summed up as the **Whole Child Approach**: caring about every aspect of a child.

Primary, High School, and Preparatory College Goals and Programs

Our main priority is for our students to gain a solid foundation achieve high scores well on Ministry of Education Examinations at grade 8, 10, and 12. Beginning in grade 1, we focus not only on strong language skills, but we work to build our students into serious and competitive academic students as well.

Additionally, we endeavor to develop the values of strong work ethic, honesty, responsibility and independence our students. This is accomplished through a strict code of conduct supported by all members of our staff. We believe our goals can be met through the following principles:

- Clean and comfortable campuses.
- A Character Counts Program which is the theme of our school.
- Strong emphasis on English Language development.
- Sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities and competitions.
- Special French or Arabic programs for all grades starting in grade 1.
- After School Program for students of working parents or who need extra help on homework or weaknesses.
- Modern behavior management techniques used as the same system throughout our school system.
- Well equipped libraries, laboratories, computer labs, and other facilities.
- Strong Ministry of Education Exams Preparation Program.
- Acknowledgement and reward programs for those who make improvements, achieve well academically, and excellent students.
- Close contact with the families of our students through conferences, programs, letters, communication book and newsletters.
- Highly qualified and competent educators who are further trained by the Gibson School System.
- Careful follow up of the educational process by the administration along with continual evaluation of the educational staff.

- College Board SAT/TOEFL Preparation Programs.

A) **Kindergarten School Goals and Programs**

- GSS KG Division students are reading and writing in English and Amharic by the end of the KG program through the use of the phonics technique.
- GSS KG Division students have a good foundation in English communication.
- GSS KG Division students understand and follow appropriate school and social behavior.
- GSS KG Division students love learning.
- GSS KG Division students are independent learners and confident students.

B) **Special Programs for Kindergarten Students Include:-**

- Emphasis on growing, learning, and character development.
- A Character Counts Program which is the theme of our school.
- Special emphasis on English speaking.
- Group work and cooperative learning emphasis for early ages.
- Special indoor playroom activity time.
- Library/Story time in the story room.
- Educational video viewing: Barney, Sesame Street, and others.
- Morning Line-up ceremony with special activities to enhance language skills, love of learning and group participation.
- Tender loving care and attention to each student,
- Strong enthusiasm and love of the Ethiopian culture and heritage.
- Academic and social kindergarten approach.