



# JOYFUL LEARNING SCHOOL

## **Yearly Report 2021**

drafted by the German/Ghanaian Friendship  
Association e.V.

# Akwaaba!

Dear friends of the Joyful Learning School,

With the well-bearing coconut palm tree from our school garden, we invite you to take a look at the fruits and challenges of 2021!

We thought we would make the report extra special for this year. Thereby, we use Adrinka symbols as our outline. These symbols express wisdom and are a central part of West African philosophy.

Originally they come from the region where our school is located: Brong-Ahafo. Meanwhile, they can be seen all over West Africa on clothing, on household goods and on houses as decoration. They express in an abstract form the philosophy of life in Ghana. In the past, they could only be used by kings. Recently, they have also been adopted by companies in their logos.

We did the same 16 years ago with our Adrinka symbol logo - PEMPASIE meaning "Together as one".

Encounters and exchanges always broaden horizons - for all of us. And so we are pleased that this year, despite the corona pandemic, which has not yet ended, interns are again working at the school and can gain experience. You can find out more about this in the report. We also focus on the farewell of our beloved students from Junior Highschool 3 who went to secondary school after their final exam and for whom some classrooms were redesigned as boarding houses.

From new material, to our planned partner school visit, again delayed by the pandemic - This report shows you exactly what has been going on at the JLS. Although our school also suffered from extreme weather for example, many things worked out well! Find out more on the following pages.

Have fun with the Joyful Learning Report 2021!

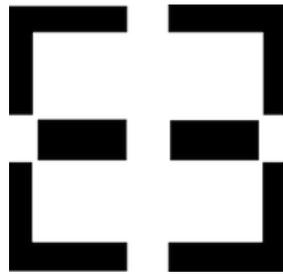


Reinhild Zenk and Owusu Agyei  
German/Ghanaian Friendship Association e.V.



WOFORO DUA PA A  
THOSE WHO ARE CLIMBING A GOOD  
TREE ARE GIVEN A PUSH

## Endings and beginnings



WOFORO DUA PA A

Those who are climbing a good tree are  
given a push

We said goodbye to our students of  
Junior High School 3 this year! After  
completing their final exam in  
August, a new chapter began for  
them at Senior High School!



Our graduating class prepared for  
their exams in the picture above. The  
JLS was recognized by the West  
African Examination Council in 2021.  
Through this supra-regional  
recognition, all students have taken  
part in the examinations for the  
“Basic Education Certificate  
Examination for School Candidates“.

In the picture below, the headmaster  
Mr. Ibrahim is watching the  
graduating class writing their final  
exams. In this photo the students are  
sitting in the school library, where the  
computers are also located.





## Homeschooling?

Due to the pandemic, students all over the world have had to get used to a school day from home. Last year we already reported on the initiative of the Ghanaian government to teach on public television. This year there is a twist...

In preparation for the final exams, two classes spent a semester in the boarding house on the school grounds. For this purpose, existing infrastructure, former classrooms, were used and separated dormitories were created for our students. In this way, learning from home became a home for learning.

In the picture above this text, the teacher (right) visits the Girl Dormitory.



## Science box

In 2021, the JLS received a special donation from the Rotary Club of Gifhorn-Wolfsburg - Science Boxes!

This Science Set is a textbook-sized science lab for children and is distributed by Dext Technology. Ghanaian mechanical engineer Michael Asante-Afrifa has developed the Science Set, a mini-science laboratory that contains specially developed materials needed for scientific activities and experiments.

The Dext Science Kit has won many international awards, including the Most Innovative Education Solution in Africa, 2018 from the African Union Commission for Human Recourse Development Science and Technology Awards; the Africa Engineering Innovation Prize, 2018 by the Royal Academy of Engineering and many others.



It easily fits in a school bag and on a school desk and contains 45 different parts, from printed circuit boards and wires to an electromagnet and a mini lightbox. With these, students can carry out 26 experiments that are already on the curriculum of the elementary and middle school in Ghana. The kit is easy to use, quick to set up, and designed to integrate seamlessly into the classroom. This is particularly valuable because schools offer little practical experience with scientific experiments, as laboratories are not common there.

We are looking forward to further incorporating these sets into our classrooms!



## Report from our student Atta Bonus Jr.

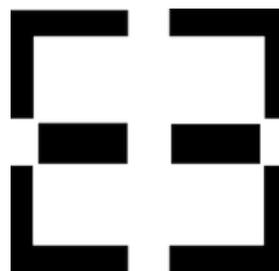
Atta is 16 years old and is graduating from JLS Junior High School next year.

He has been a student at our school since kindergarten and we are pleased that he has agreed to give a little insight into his experiences. He's the tall boy in the picture.



What is your experience as a student of the Joyful Learning School?

We are now on vacation. The teachers are really doing well. They teach us very well and make sure that discipline works in the school. We have a very nice facility that makes learning very easy for us. I am in the boarding house now where they feed us with good food. We go to prep every evening to learn as well. I really like my school so much!



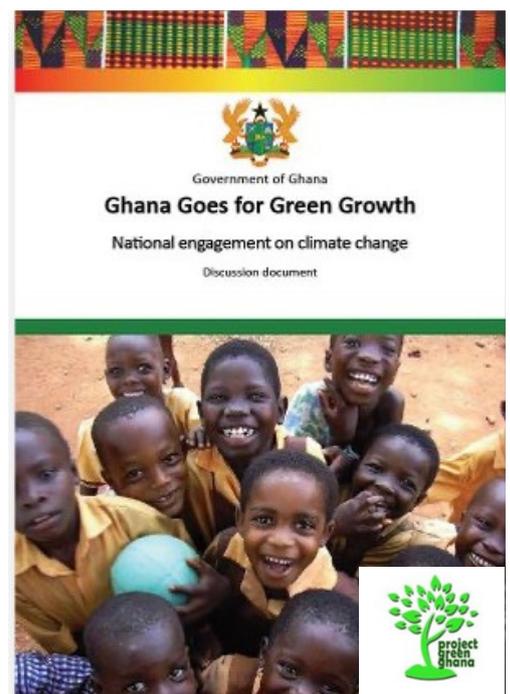
## Five million trees, one day

On June 11, 2021, the Ghanaian government implemented “the Green Ghana“ initiative with the plan to plant 5 million trees in one day. From the president to schoolchildren, many took part. Of course, the Joyful Learning School also participated. The aim is to counteract climate change, which is becoming more and more noticeable in Ghana as well as in Germany through extreme weather events.



BOA ME NA ME MMOA WO

This Adrinka symbol means “Help me and let me help you”  
With this we introduce the second part of this annual report.



In the picture below, our headmaster Mr Ibrahim Oppong is planting one of 5 million trees.

Of course, our students do not only deal with nature on a large scale, they are also active in our school garden. The mahogany- and acacia trees planted in 2018 have reached a considerable size and are excellent shade providers! The grass cutters and snails from our animal enclosure have been living in an enlarged area since this year, where they can roam freely.

On this picture (right) team leaders of the “Green Ghana” campaign explain the project to the students.



## Floods and Lighting

The year 2021 plays a central role in the development of the climate crisis and in this year many parts of the world experienced extreme weather. We remember those affected by the devastating floods in Western Europe and the lesser known floods in East Africa. The JLS also had to struggle with extreme weather this year. The access road to our school premises became impassable for the school bus due to heavy rain in the rainy season! Therefore, teachers quickly took the initiative and carried younger students up the slope. Furthermore, a lightning strike temporarily prevented the use of the sola electricity network.



## Refreshing traditions

Nevertheless, mud is not always a bad thing. In Ghana students follow the tradition that after passing their final exams, ready to graduate, the long-term school uniform can finally be made really dirty! That's how our graduating students did it too!



## Considering the Pandemic

### Information

In Ghana, only 8.46% of the population have been fully vaccinated so far, primarily due to the lack of a vaccine shots. The pandemic effect is relaxed in large parts of Africa and especially in Ghana compared to Europe. In December, Ghana had well under 1000 recorded cases across the country, despite the low vaccination rate. The reasons for the mild outbreak include the warm climate and rapid government responses. We are pleased that some of our students have already received a vaccination.

Source: Johns Hopkins University



### Food for thought

Amnesty International logically concludes that the patent on vaccines and the lack of global solidarity-based distribution favor the development of new variants. Thus the pandemic is intensifying in terms of time and symptoms. If you are interested, there is a link here to look it up further.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/10/g20s-bitter-divide-on-global-vaccine-inequality-could-condemn-world-to-an-endless-pandemic-charities-warn/>



## Special Focus



Here a father brings young school children to their first vaccination on his motorcycle!

## Internships at the JLS

We are also delighted about our new interns at JLS! Here our intern Paula gives an insight into her current life in Sunyani.

Akwaaba - Welcome!

The fact that I actually made it to Ghana at the end of October is a surprise despite a lot of previous planning. My possibility to stay here was unsure for a long time, due to the virus and because I am the first volunteer since the outbreak of the pandemic. Nevertheless, my journey began at the end of October in Ghana's capital Accra, from where I took the "V.I.P." Bus to Sunyani on the next day. Already on the first evening in Accra I learned my first word in Twi, Akwaaba - welcome.

This word accompanies me throughout my stay. Whether it is the sellers inbetween the cars in traffic with heavy baskets on their heads, the market women in Sunyani, the residents of the guesthouse in Baakoniaba or the students and teachers of the Joyful Learning School, I am welcomed everywhere .



NKONSONKONSO

The meaning of this symbol is "We are connected like the links of a chain"

The Joyful Learning School definitely lives up to its name, because the atmosphere here is always good and working with the children is simply fun, whether it's German lessons in grade four, numbers games in grade three, art lessons in grade 6 or discussions in JHS1 . Especially after the last exam and at the "Our Day" celebration, it got really funny. Drums, trumpets and horns are used to make music and everyone dances. Fortunately, there is still some time before my months in Ghana come to an end and I am looking forward to more lessons full of laughter, traveling around the country and project work in Sunyani.



## Container

In 2021 a container was also sent from Germany to Ghana! We thank our supporters for the donations in goods and the wonderful help with loading in Germany and unloading in Ghana! The donations were well received and our students are happy about the new tables!



## Honorary Members 2021

Connected like the links of a chain

The long and special commitment of Ute von Hülsen, posthumously Dr. Hans-Viggo von Hülsen and Daniela and Lawrence Guntner for the school project were honored with an honorary membership in the German/Ghanaian Friendship Association e.V. in 2021.

Their work was particularly honored with a vivid retrospective of all the projects that these two couples had supported and carried out. At the same time, these pictures also showed the development of our school since it was founded in 2005.

There was a lot to celebrate at this premier award ceremony. We are looking forward to honouring special engagements both in Germany and in Ghana in the future! We can always look ahead with confidence because friends are there for each other and help each other out!



## We say Thank You! Words of our Headmaster Mr Ibrahim Oppong

2021 has been a reviving year for most businesses globally which our school is not left out. This is as a result of covid 19 leading to the closure of most businesses.

The school has been duly recognized by the Education service in Ghana leading to our writing of the BECE this year.

I would like to inform our friends out there that their support in terms of furniture and other learning materials have had a positive bearing on the school.

Most people also consider the environment of the school (conduciveness) before they enroll their children in a school. I must say that the tree planting exercise has helped to provide a conducive atmosphere.

We look forward for a better 2022 academic year.

Thanks!



# Medawase!

We hope for the freedom to meet again more frequently and for the ability to actively experience our school partnership between the Ehmen-Mörse elementary school & the Joyful Learning School once again! In September 2016, the headmaster Mr Ibrahim Oppong came to Wolfsburg with our student Sandra Lamiley. They took part in the lessons, got to know the city and the people here. We remember warm meetings in the Ludgeri Church and in our German partner school.

The EXCHANGE from Wolfsburg to Sunyani is now again and finally planned for October 2022. We would like to thank the Carl and Marisa Hahn Foundation, which had already promised to support this international exchange previously. The motto is: Music and English are our common languages. We hope to be able to tell you about it next year!



We would like to thank you very much for your loyalty, for your thoughts and cooperation, for your support and suggestions. It is a pleasure for us to stand together with you for the development of the Joyful Learning School and to provide opportunities for learning on all sides! For the New Year we wish you health, joy and a good climate for growth, prosperity and learning!

Together as one!

The German/Ghanaian Friendship Association wishes you a Happy New Year!

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