

20 Things You Didn't Know About Bridge International Academies in Kenya!

1. **8-4-4 Syllabus:** Bridge teaches the 8-4-4 syllabus and brings new, engaging lessons aligned to the syllabus to our classrooms on a daily basis. These lessons, designed by some of the world's leading educationalists utilize strategies and activities that are proven to increase pupil understanding and delivered wirelessly to classroom teachers.
2. **Teacher Training:** Each teacher has undertaken rigorous selection and teacher training of an initial 235 hour syllabus prior to first teaching. On going training is provided during the school holidays.
3. **Teacher – Pupil Engagement:** Lessons are designed to ensure that teachers spend the majority of the lesson circulating in the classroom checking for understanding. We also add additional reading time and encourage critical thinking in our classes.
4. **Substitute Teachers:** An additional pool of teachers who reside close to the academy are permanently on call and do report to class in less than 1 hour to ensure that there is next to nil absenteeism of permanent teaching staff. Furthermore, detailed lesson plans allow the substitute to continue where the permanent teacher left off.
5. **Teacher Support:** Teachers are supported through the provision of daily teachers' guides, relieving teachers of the burden of lesson planning. Additionally, a quality assurance team is on call to support teachers and provide individual feedback, ensuring that teachers are circulating around the classroom and pupils are understanding.
6. **Teaching 8.5 Hours a day with nil absenteeism:** We provide 8.5 hours a day of engaging lessons to the more than 100,000 pupils who attend our nursery and primary schools across Africa and Asia. Strict teacher attendance monitoring allows Bridge to ensure all teachers are in class and teaching everyday.
7. **Assessment:** We conduct one of the most comprehensive and rigorous early grade reading and math assessment programmes in East Africa. Results of an externally administered study show that children at Bridge learn in one year what their peers in neighboring schools learn in two. Our standard 8 pupils sit KCPE. Last year our first graduating class had a 40% higher chance of passing KCPE than their peers in neighbouring schools.
8. **Primary Learning Materials:** Our materials, including textbooks, workbooks, homework books, and practical learning aides, encourage pupils to apply concepts to real life situations.
9. **Early Childhood Education:** Pupils use flashcards to practice new vocabulary and benefit from engaging storybooks that introduce them to the joy of reading.
10. **Safe Learning Environments:** At Bridge International Academies corporal punishment is strictly forbidden. Positive reinforcement of good behavior sets the standard and supports pupils to improve behaviorally & academically.
11. **Accountability to Parents:** Cashless payments protect parents by preventing fraud and ensuring that all the money they have paid goes directly towards training and supporting academy staff, creating effective lessons and learning materials, and maintaining the structure and grounds of the academy.
12. **Low fee schooling:** Our scale allows us to invest in critical educational infrastructure and in turn provide quality schooling at an affordable cost.
13. **Digital Technology:** Our teachers use tablets and the Academy manager uses a smart phone to synchronise the teachers tablets each morning before lessons, ensuring that each day a reviewed and an updated lesson is taught.
14. **Innovative Learning:** Lower primary pupils use tens frames to develop a strong understanding of basic math's concepts, while upper primary pupils carry out experiments from the Bridge Science Kit.
15. **Integrated teaching:** Bridge is data-driven and technology-enabled. Our integration of technology with teacher and manager at our academies ensures that our pupils are learning constantly and consistently.
16. **Learn anywhere in the country:** Due to the uniform syllabus and curriculum synchronisation at each and every school, at each particular hour on each day it is possible to enroll a child anywhere in the country to continue their education if you are required to move e.g. due to work, funerals, essential travel.
17. **Results Oriented:** The first Bridge International Academy opened in Mukuru, Nairobi in 2009. In 2015, Bridge's first Standard 8 class sat for KCPE. The first two academies Mukuru Kwa Njenga and Mukuru Kwa Reuben had a pass rate of 100% and a mean score of 329.
18. **Continuous Impact Evaluation:** Every day, we collect data from the ground up to understand the current academic performance of our pupils, drive curricular and training decision-making, and assess the effectiveness of our work.
19. **Continuous Peer Evaluation:** We work in partnership with a third-party organization to measure the foundational literacy and numeracy skills of our pupils and their academic peers in neighboring schools. We then track the same pupils over time to measure learning gains – both within Bridge and relative to other schools in the same communities.

20. **Call Centre:** We have an active call centre (+254 732 160 000) for anyone to call, and log each call from our parents to ensure we deliver a personal and focused service and that each child's learning potential is maximized in each and every school.