

Dorm Outing



# Jewells

# in Africa



Board Games



## Okapi Dorm 2021



Slip 'n Slide Kickball



Dorm Hike



Dorm Hoodies



Dorm Hike



Life Together



8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration

## God > covid

After transitioning to online learning for the final seven months of 2020, Rift Valley Academy was able to bring students back to in-person learning in January of this year! This was a monumental task, as not only did we have to navigate similar challenges that any other school has faced during the pandemic, but also the added difficulties of being a boarding school with students traveling from many different countries. However – through God’s grace and provision, hours of meetings, frustrations, restrictions, and many adjustments – we have been blessed to have students and our dorm boys back with us since January! It has not been easy, and we have had to adapt and adjust to many uncomfortable and stretching changes, but it has been worth it! Unbelievably (in spite of the protocols, masking, and restrictions we’ve had to live under), these past six months of having our dorm boys back have definitely been some of our best over the past six years! God is incredible, and He is greater than COVID!

## “Tutaonana Baadaye!”

Every two years, we have to say “goodbye” to our dorm boys as they finish junior high and move to a high school dorm. This is never easy for us after spending two years living life and growing together with them. The group of boys we’ve had over the past two years has been a special group for us. They had an uncommon unity, which was wonderful to see and live with. Even though they still had different interests and passions, they were very inclusive of each other and got along so well. They were such a joy for us to have, and we truly enjoyed the past six months with them as they finished out 8<sup>th</sup> grade. [Check out a short video of the past two years (and other highlight videos) on our blog at: <https://jewellsinafrica.weebly.com/highlights.html>.]

But this school year, as we had to let go of this current group of our dorm boys and see them off to high school, we were also faced with another huge goodbye as we proudly watched our first group of junior high boys (from 2015-2017) graduate and head off to what God has for them next! Although this was an exciting moment for us, it is hard knowing we will no longer see them around campus or get to spend time with them here. However, we hold to the hope that it is not actually “goodbye,” but instead “tutaonana baadaye” (which means “see you later” in Swahili).



## Current Roles

Along with our always-favorite role of dorm parenting, what else are we doing right now? David continues to serve as Jr. High Coordinator for grades 7 and 8, and he was also asked to serve on the Academic Leadership Team for this year. Although Ashley has served in Student Health in the past, she has currently transitioned to focusing on being a dorm mom – which keeps her plenty busy!

## Beau’s Bit

After surviving online school, Beau was thrilled to be back in class with his friends! He is Mr. Super-Social, so being back with his peers has been a blessing for him (and us!). He will be starting second grade in August, and he loves playing any and all sports, spy ninjas, and Legos.

## Evi’s Piece

Due to current childcare restrictions, Evi has had to spend *a lot* of time at home with Mom. But she has also gotten to the age where she enjoys spending time with the dorm boys, and they are great with her! She typically has an easy-going, happy personality – as long as she gets her breakfast as soon as she wakes up! 😊 She loves all things sparkly but also loves climbing trees and wrestling with her brother.

## Praises...

- Having students and our dorm boys return to RVA (when many other boarding schools have had to remain closed)
- Repeatedly receiving hundreds of negative COVID test results for students and staff who are continuously travelling internationally
- Experiencing one of our best years at RVA (even in the midst of many challenges)

## ...and Prayer Requests

- Please pray for God’s continued blessing and provision for RVA to remain open in spite of many different COVID-related challenges.
- Since we first began preparing to come to RVA over six years ago, God has provided incredibly for our financial support. It’s been amazing to experience the many ways He’s done this! Currently, our monthly support is down and we are below what we need. (If you would like to partner with us financially through either a one-time or monthly gift, you can do so at the following link: <https://usgiving.aimint.org/missionary/1035540>.)