

A DAY IN THE LIFE AT LITTLE ROSES SCHOOL

Little Roses School was co-founded in 2003 by a retired teacher called Madam Tamakloe Rose Aku and the Parent Teacher Association. It is a co-educational private school.

Little Roses School is located in the coastal town of Anloga, which is now the district capital, near the Keta Lagoon, in the Volta Region of Ghana. It provides an education to approximately 600 students between the ages of two and 16 years old.

The school compound is not that spacious at our Junior High School site, and because of this there are only a few classrooms. We are looking forward to building more structures on our new site to accommodate more students and enhance learning. The school is run by the Parent Teacher Association, in collaboration with the founder of the school, and is severely underfunded. This makes the provision of learning materials such as tables, chairs, or computers difficult.

Little Roses School is located in a town which is surrounded by two water bodies - the sea and the lagoon - and has land which is suitable for subsistence farming. As such, every child is expected to support their parents and relatives by working at the farm or on the lagoon before coming to school.

Students are expected to wake up early to help their parents, or the relatives that they live with, with various chores. Some students help with housework, after which they may go to the farm to help water the crops. Others are expected to go to the lagoon to help their parents carry the fish they have caught overnight back home.

6:00-7:00: After their morning chores, each student washes and prepares to go to school. Since most people do not have running water in their homes, students have to fetch water from outside. When they are ready, they walk to school. Some walk 200-300 metres each day, to and from school, which is a bit tiring, but they have no choice.

7:00-7:30: During this period students are expected to tidy up the school compound, supervised by their teachers. After this, a bell is rung for assembly, where any important information is shared with students and teachers. Then, the children disperse to their various classrooms for lessons.

7:30 -10:30: This is a three-subject period for the Junior High School students. Each section is an hour per subject. The Primary School students have their lessons from 7:30-9:15 am, which is a two-subject period, with each period also running for an hour.

9:15-9:45: This is the first break for the Primary students. The Junior High Students have their break from 10:30-10:45, and each student is expected to go and have their breakfast.

They either go to the school canteen or eat the food they brought from home. The canteen is located in the school premises under shelter. The food in the canteen is checked by the health committee of the school and the headmaster, who make sure that it is well cooked and served under hygienic conditions to prevent any risk to the students.

9:45-11:15: On Mondays, Religious and Moral Education (R.M.E) is taught at this time to the Primary classes, whilst the Junior High students are taught Science, French and Social Studies.

11:15-11:45: This is the lunch break for the Primary students. The Junior High students have their lunch break at 12:45-1:15pm. During this period, the students who have money on them buy some food to eat, whilst others play all manner of games including football or "ampe".

11:45-2:30pm and 1:15-3:00pm: Lunch break is over and the students return to their various classrooms to finish up with lessons for the day. During these periods, the Primary students study Science, Writing, and Ewe (a Ghanaian local language), whilst the Junior High students study I.C.T, Ewe, and R.M.E.

During I.C.T lessons, because the school does not have computers, it is very difficult to teach the pupils. The teachers have to draw the computer parts on the board, which makes comprehension very difficult. In addition, during P.E. on Fridays, since the school does not have a playground, the students have to resort to using the available space at the front of the school. The school also does not have enough jerseys, volleyballs, footballs and training kits for students to use, so some children bring shirts from home to play sports in, whilst those who can't afford another shirt have to use their uniforms, which get dirty.

At 2:30pm and 3:00pm respectively, the school closes for the Primary and Junior High School students.

2:30 and 3:00-4:00pm: During this time, each student is expected home by their parents or relatives. After school, the students are expected to help water the farm crops. Those students whose parents fish at the lagoon are expected to help mend the fishing nets and prepare them for fishing overnight, while those whose parents fish at sea help carry the nets to the shore and prepare them for the next day's catch.

At 6:30pm, each student is expected to return home, bathe and eat supper. At 7:30pm they are supposed to do their homework before going to sleep early, ready to wake up early the next day.

Most people live in a single room with their kids, with no toilet facilities in the house. Some of the houses are built with cement bricks.

Due to this overcrowding at home, and the work they must do before and after school, some students find it difficult concentrating in class, and some even sleep during lessons.

