



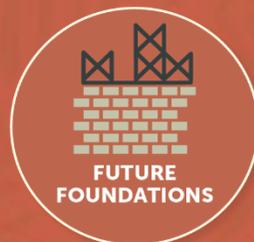
# Kurhula Secondary School Science Lab Equipment and Furniture Final Report – November 2023

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



30  
YEARS

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES  
ENABLING CONSERVATION



## KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL - BACKGROUND

In 2015, a project committee consisting of community members, Department of Education and Africa Foundation was formed to enable the establishment of Kurhula Secondary School. This was in response to the Huntingdon community motivating for a school scholars living in Huntington. These scholars were walking up to 7km to a Secondary School in Lillydale resulting in poor attendance, poor performance and high dropout rates.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education catalyzed the establishment of the School by allocating teachers and providing twelve pre-fabricated classrooms. Africa Foundation was initially able to support by providing 10 Enviro Loo ablutions, a borehole for access to water and perimeter fencing.

Over the last year, Africa Foundation, &Beyond and the Sabi Sands Pfunanani Trust supported the establishment of the first permanent classroom block and a science laboratory block.



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## KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL – BACKGROUND

The school currently has 584 students, taught by 19 teachers with the assistance of 7 support staff. The 3 charts illustrate the scholar gender and grade profiles for the school.

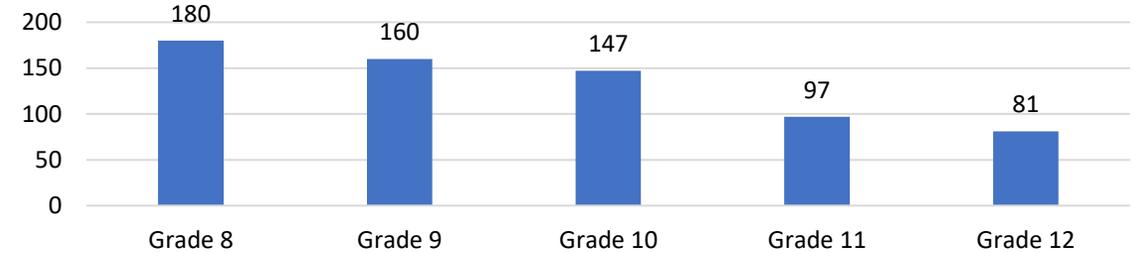


There are currently school currently has 132 students studying science towards their Matric. The addition of a Science Laboratories at the school will be transformational for these students, significantly improving their learning environment. Kurhula Secondary School will be the second School in the District to have this facility, with the vision of becoming center of excellence in science subjects.

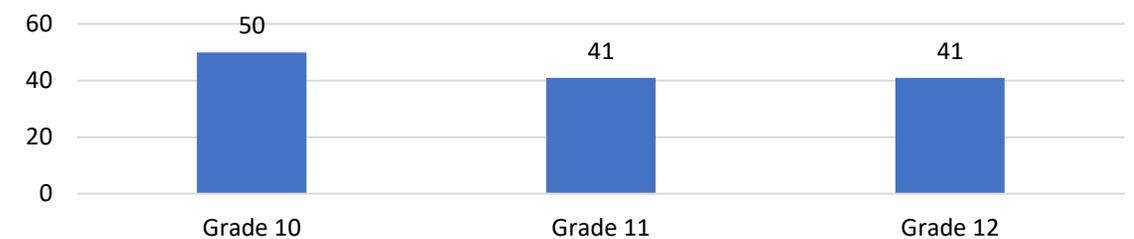
Scholar gender profile (584 Total)



Scholar grade profile (584 Total)



Science scholar grade profile (132 Total)



# KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL – SCIENCE LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT PROJECT

Construction of the Science Laboratory started in April, following the appointment of a local contractor sourced through an open tender process.

The Project steering committee, consisting of school and parent leadership and Africa Foundation and Sabi Sands representatives, supervised implementation, with emphasis on ensuring the build was done within budget and to a very high standard.

The completed structure was formally handed over in November, through a celebration that profiled the deep appreciation of the community and their excitement at having such an amazing facility.

Funding generously donated by an Africa Foundation USA donor allowed for the Laboratories to be fully equipped.



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# KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL – SCIENCE LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT - HANDOVER CELEBRATION

The handover ceremony was attended by the:

- Department of Education – Circuit Manager.
- Sabi Sands Pfunanani Trust representatives.
- Africa Foundation Greater Kruger and Johannesburg representatives.
- AndBeyond Regional Manager and Kirkmans / Tengile lodge representatives.
- Community Leadership.
- School staff, Governing Body members and students.



**KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

PRIVATE BAG X 518  
XIMHUNGWE  
1281

Kurhula Secondary School  
Education as a Matter of Resilience

EMIS NO 800035639  
HUNTINGTON TRUST  
STAND NO 710

**EDUCATION EMBRACES ALL**  
Email address: kurhulasec@gmail.com

ENQ: NDLOVU G.B  
Cell: 072 7121 229

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: MASHELE H.G**

1. OPENING	: NATIONAL ANTHEM ( LEARNERS )
2. WELCOMING	: ZINDOGA L
3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	: SIBISI S.J
	: LIHLE SIBUYI
4. PURPOSE OF THE DAY	: NOKUTHULA MASHABA
5. ITEM	: SPEECH
6. MESSAGE OF SUPPORT	: INDUNA
	COUNCILLOR
	HUNDZUKANI
	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
7. WORD BY	: AFRICA FOUNDATION ( MICHHAELA MARTIN )
	SABIE SAND
	END BEYOND ( CLINTON )
	DONOR ( SUZIE FRANKEL )
8. VOTE OF THANKS	: SGB
9. ANNOUNCEMENT	: FRANK UBISI
10. CLOSURE	: NDLOVU Q



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## KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL – SCIENCE LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT PROJECT - IMPACT

Statistics from the Department of Basic Education issued in 2015 show that the great majority of South African schools lack scientific laboratories. In terms of numbers, there are 23 589 public ordinary schools in this country with 86% without scientific labs.

Science is taught from a textbook in the majority of rural and township schools, despite the subject's glaring need for hands-on learning. This implies that a large number of young students are not receiving practical instruction in a subject where practice and demonstration of the material greatly enhances learning. Because of this, a large number of young first-year science students at universities are extremely behind, having never been in a laboratory. The construction of these science labs will help students from Kurhula Secondary school, with a passion for science, to develop the necessary skills that facilitate a smooth transition to post matric education in the field.

Science inquiry-based learning teaches students how to look for and evaluate supporting data for scientific statements as well as how to test ideas systematically. It provides students with the chance to grow into self-assured, critical thinkers, not only preparing the next generation of scientists, but also students who are more able to transition successfully into the working world.



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# KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL – SCIENCE LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT PROJECT - TESTIMONIALS

## KURHULA JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

PRIVATE BAG X 518  
XIMHUNGWE



EMIS NO 800035639  
HUNTINGTON TRUST

1281

STAND NO 710

EDUCATION EMBRACES ALL POSSIBILITIES

Email address: kurhulasec@gmail.com

ENQ, NDLOVU G.B  
CELL: 072 712 1229

Date : 16/11/2023

TO : AFRICA FOUNDATION

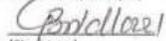
FROM : THE PRINCIPAL

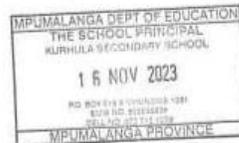
RE : CONSTRUCTION OF SCIENCE LABORATORY APPRECIATION

1. The above matter bears reference.
2. As the construction of the science laboratory is complete, I would like to express my gratitude to your wonderful and caring organization for this state of the art infrastructure.
3. This facility is going to see our school producing learners who are well exposed to the laboratory environment. For those who will make it to tertiary colleges and pursue sciences related programmes, they are not going to experience many challenges relating to manipulation of science equipment. This will see many of these learners succeeding in their courses and number of drop outs will be reduced.
4. The just received laboratory will be serving not only learners from the Huntington community, but learners from about six villages around the school. This will therefore see the school growing in terms of enrolment.
5. I would like to conclude by assuring you that we are going to do everything within our hands as a school in making sure that the science laboratory will be well taken of. We promise you that the lab will not be left to become a white elephant.
6. May you be blessed as an organization for this wonderful job you are doing so as to up-lift the standard of education received by the black child. Without you this school could not have come into existence.

Yours faithfully

Ndlovu GB (Principal)

  
(Signature)



*“This facility is going to see our school producing learners who are well exposed to the laboratory environment. For those who will make it to tertiary colleges and pursue sciences related programmes... this will see many of these learners succeeding in their courses and the number of dropout will be reduced.*

*..without you this school could not have come into existence”*

**Gloria B Ndlovu**  
**Principal**

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# KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL – SCIENCE LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT PROJECT - TESTIMONIALS

## KURHULA JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

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EMIS NO 800035639  
HUNTINGTON TRUST

1281 STAND NO 710

EDUCATION EMBRACES ALL POSSIBILITIES

Email address: kurhulasec@gmail.com

ENQ. NDLOVU G.B  
CELL: 072 712 1229

Date : 16/11/2023

FROM : SCIENCES DEPARTMENTAL HEAD  
TO : AFRICA FOUNDATION  
RE : SCIENCES LAB DONATION APPRECIATION

1. This letter refers to the matter above mentioned.
2. On behalf of the sciences teachers at Kurhula Secondary School and on my own behalf, I would like to express our heart-felt gratitude and excitement for the well-built and spacious sciences laboratory that you have constructed at our school.
3. Science subjects, be it natural sciences, life sciences or physical sciences are practical subjects. As such, every lesson in these subjects is supposed to have at least an experiment or demonstration based on the concept being delivered. This was not possible in all our lessons mainly because of the non-availability of a science lab. As educators we were left with no option but to theorize everything. This, many a times, made our teaching very difficult as understanding of certain concepts without a practical becomes very difficult.
4. The availability of the science lab is definitely going to make the teaching and learning of sciences at this school very interesting to both the teacher and the learner.
5. We are therefore promising you as an organization that we are not going to let you down by us using this facility to the full advantage of the learners so that their understanding of sciences subjects will tremendously improve.
6. It is our hope that, because this lab, the school will be able to produce a learner(s) with a 100 % in sciences in the very near future and you will join us to celebrate such an achievement when it becomes a reality.
7. May you continue with this wonderful work especially in our previously disadvantaged schools. With this type of support we will do our best not to disappoint.
8. Be blessed as an organization and continue to grow so that you can more who are in need.

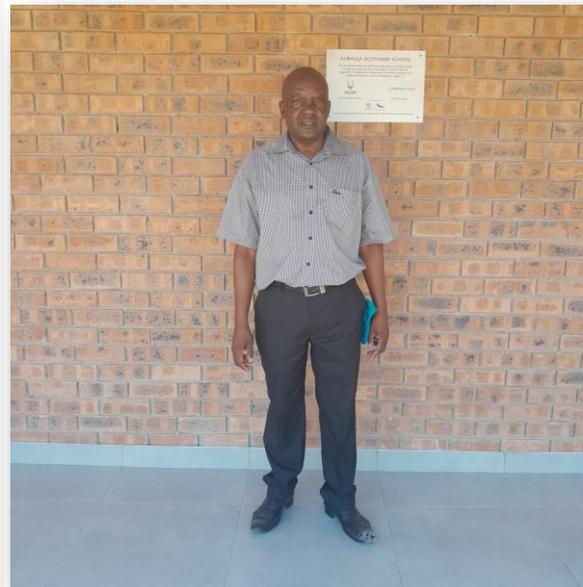
Yours faithfully  
Zindoga L (Departmental Head-Sciences)



*“I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and excitement for the well built and spacious sciences lab that you have constructed at our school.*

*...it is our hope that, because of this lab, our school will be able to produce a learner or learners with a 100% pass mark in the very near future and you will join us to celebrate such an achievement when it becomes a reality...”*

**Zindoga L**  
**Science Department Head**



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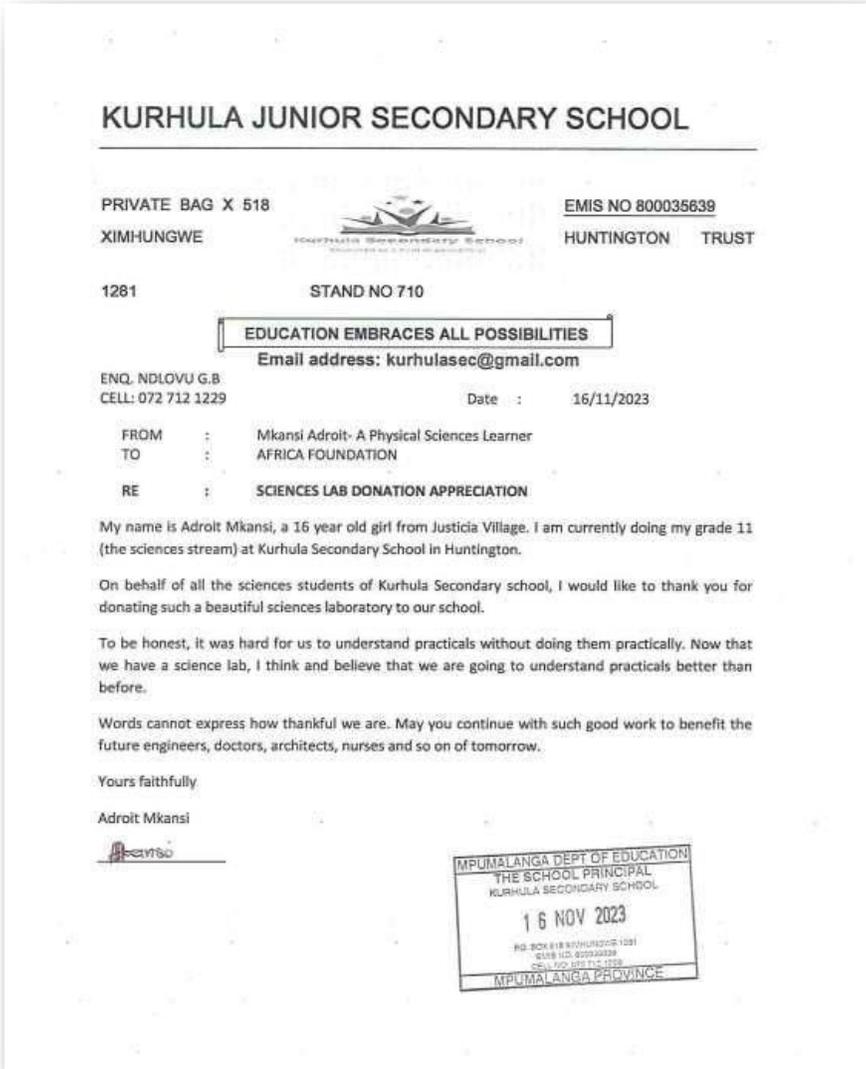


# KURHULA SECONDARY SCHOOL – SCIENCE LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT PROJECT - TESTIMONIALS

*“...on behalf of all the sciences students of Kurhula Secondary School, I would like to thank you for donating such a beautiful science laboratory to our school.*

*Now that we have a science lab, I think and believe that we are going to understand practicals better than before.”*

**Adroit Mkansi**  
**Science student**



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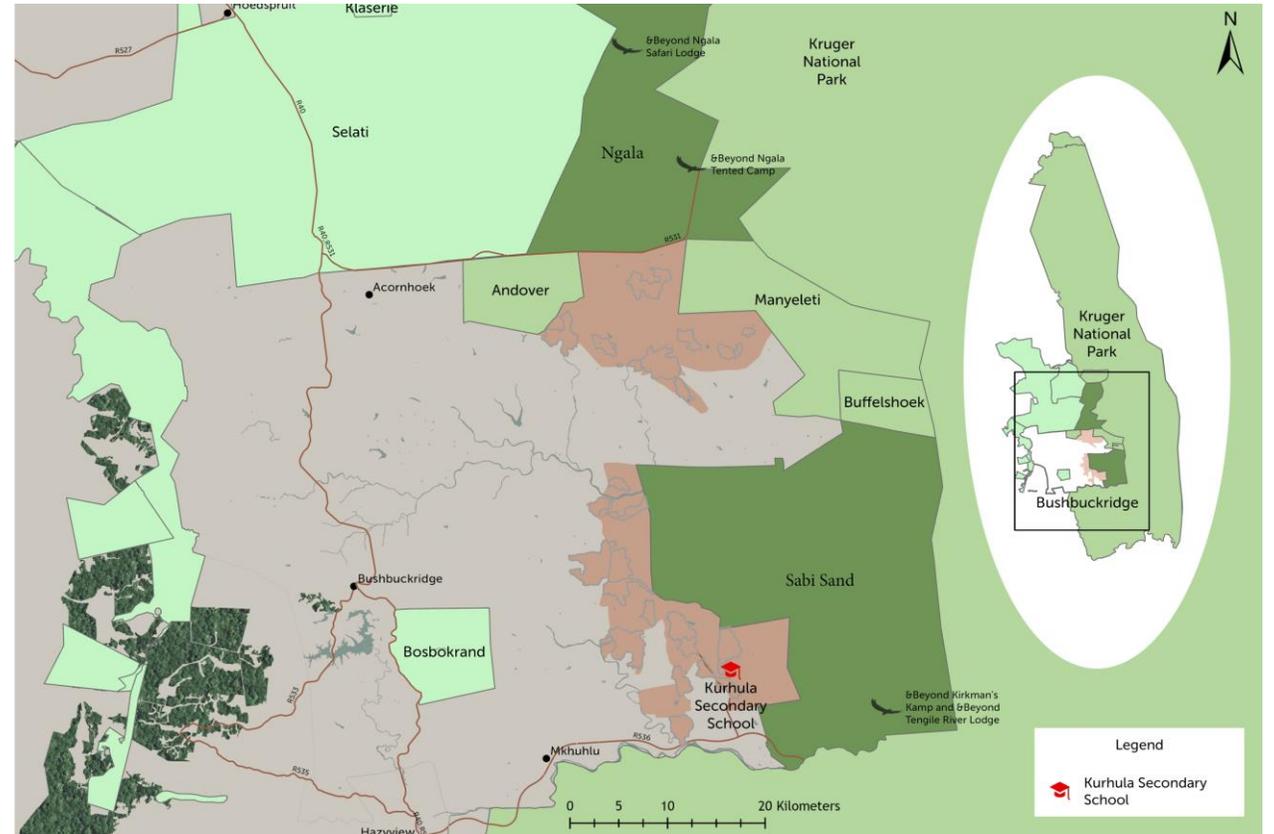


## COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Kurhula Secondary School is situated in the Huntington community, close to the Sabi Sands Game Reserve in Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga. This community has a population of approximately 3500 living in 827 households. Employment opportunities are extremely limited in the area, outside of working in nearby lodges and informal trading. This situation leads to many men and women of working age migrating to urban areas, leaving the elderly and teenage behind to care for children within their households and wider community.

Household incomes are low and there is a high dependency on government social grants (old age pension, child support grant and disability grant). With minimal opportunity and guidance, the teenage pregnancy rate is relatively high, which 17% of all babies in Huntington in 2016 being born to 15-to-19 year-old mothers.

Service delivery in the area is sparse, access to water is extremely limited in this area and waste management services are scarce leading to an unhealthy amount of rubbish in the environment. The road infrastructure, although improving, is poor and public transport options are limited.



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