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## The Girls' Middle School

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### **Girls Helping Girls: Girls Learn International (GLI) at GMS**

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*English translation of original article linked above.*

Women's empowerment is not a new concept. Women have been making exceptional contributions and discoveries across scientific, political, familial, cultural, and industrial fields for as long as human societies have been around—regardless of their lack of recognition. In recent years, the term “women's empowerment” evokes a sense of women learning to trust themselves, take risks, and be the protagonist in the story. In the political realm, empowering women demands equal human rights, rebelling against expected norms, and recognizing the contributions of women worldwide.

At The Girls' Middle School in Palo Alto, girls are empowering themselves and others. A group of students' volunteerism is helping communities of girls living in underdeveloped countries across the globe. [The Girls Learn International](#) (GLI) club at The Girls' Middle School, has partnered with the Bumpo School in West Africa to share ideas, build international community, and build economic support.

Gaby DiMuro, a Humanities teacher at The Girls' Middle School (GMS), supervises the GMS chapter of the GLI club. She says, "It is very important that our students know how education is the ideal vehicle to change society, especially the present and the future of girls. Around the world, access to education is not common and yet should be a human right. Many girls have their lives cut short because they do not have the right to attend school. Our GLI club, which is part of a national organization, helps schools and their students in different parts of the world."

The main chapter of Girls Learn International (GLI) creates online study units to raise awareness for the importance of girls' education, promoting the rights of women and equity. GLI takes a global perspective and promotes leadership with the objective of educating and informing young girls about the global problems that many students experience when attending school.

The Girls' Middle School (GMS) started the International Girls' Club (GLI) five years ago. Rebecca Donaldson and Anjali Ulrich, both class of 2021, are responsible for planning the GMS fundraising activities for the Bumpe School. "We meet every Friday during lunch and talk to the members of the club about the basic needs of students in West Africa. We communicate with Bumpe students through letters and by phone. The students talk about their daily activities, and the projects they do to improve their community. We and our schoolmates, raise funds for various projects, such as to improve the conditions of the bathrooms and the girls' privacy. The bathrooms in Bumpe had no walls, a roof, or doors. They also need clean water and sanitary napkins. Necessary elements that we do not always value in our daily life," commented Rebecca.

Anjali added, "I have the right to education and I want to help other girls who do not have it. I am proud of this club because we share the idea that human rights must be fair and equal for all girls worldwide. "

With the money raised through the club, the girls at Bumpe School were able to rebuild their bathrooms to have privacy and no longer need to leave school to attend to their basic needs. They also designed reusable pads like sanitary napkins that allow them to attend school daily, without having to miss class because of their menstrual period.

With the help of schools like GMS across the United States, GLI has made impressive achievements in Sierra Leone, West Africa. They expanded a fruit orchard to make fresh produce available to more than 4,000 people by 2020, and acquired 20 rechargeable solar computers to enhance a computer program taught by volunteer teachers.

"Being part of an organization like The Feminist Majority Foundation, that seeks equity around the world and to which our GLI club belongs, really makes a change in the future of other people. I am very satisfied with the work that Anjali and Rebecca have done in leading this club," said teacher DiMuro.

Congratulations to Gaby DiMuro and students Anjali and Rebecca for volunteering their time to help Sierra Leone and Bumpe School. It takes heart and dedication to improve the lives of students everywhere.

For more information on how to support Bumpe School and the community in Sierra Leone, please visit: <http://www.sierraleonerising.org>. If you are interested in supporting Anjali and Rebecca's fundraising efforts for GLI at GMS, contact teacher Gaby DiMuro at [gdimuro@girlsms.org](mailto:gdimuro@girlsms.org).

"When you educate a girl, you educate a nation." – Various attributed.

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## About The Girls' Middle School

The Girls' Middle School, located in the heart of Silicon Valley, educates girls at a crucial time in life, from grade six through eight. Since 1998, GMS has been committed to nurturing curiosity and academic growth through a well-rounded and engaging hands-on progressive curriculum. Attention to the traditional disciplines of the Humanities, Science, and Math, along with Computer Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship, Spanish, and the Arts offers girls the opportunity to delve deeply and build confidence in areas in which women remain underrepresented in both higher education and the workplace. GMS values diversity and strives to close the opportunity gaps associated with ethnicity, gender, race, and socioeconomic factors. A joyful and supportive learning environment encourages girls to stretch beyond their comfort zone as they reach toward their potential, today and in the future.

For more information about The Girls' Middle School, please contact Kimberly Megna Yarnall, Communications Coordinator at [kmyarnall@girlsms.org](mailto:kmyarnall@girlsms.org) or 650-968-8338 Ext. 113. Also visit [www.girlsms.org](http://www.girlsms.org).