

PRESENTATION OF SAINT MICHAEL NYABIMATA TSS SCHOOL

“Forward Ever, Backward Never”

Nyabimata Sector, Nyaruguru District
Southern Province, Rwanda

1 October 2026



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“Forward ever back ward never” - this is the motto of the school

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1. Introduction and Context

Rwanda has limited natural resources. Its development policy is therefore strongly oriented towards the development of human resources through education and training, with the aim of producing skilled people who can also contribute to development in the wider sub-region. This mission is entrusted particularly to the Ministry of Education and its affiliated institutions. This policy is also implemented through local governments, including Nyaruguru District (1,000 km²; 350,000 inhabitants), in the Southern Province.

Social Situation of Nyaruguru District

The district has 101 educational establishments, including 89 with a primary cycle (including 9YBE or 12YBE) and 22 secondary schools, of which 10 are public schools and 12 are government-subsidised schools. The number of nursery schools is limited to 37 centres. Primary schools have 75,303 pupils, including 38,006 girls and 37,297 boys. Secondary schools have 13,607 students, including 6,830 girls. Nursery education serves 2,363 children, including 1,100 boys. The district has 1,245 primary teachers, 529 secondary teachers and 43 nursery teachers.

Literacy and School Attendance

The literacy rate is 63% among the population aged over 15. The illiteracy rate among the 15–49 age group is 49.3%. The proportion of the population that has never attended school is 35.6%. The current primary-school attendance rate in Nyaruguru District is 87%, which is below the national average of 91.7%.

Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School is the largest educational centre in Nyabimata administrative sector (127 km²; approximately 18,000 inhabitants), and it is surrounded by several other educational centres.

Student Enrolment in Schools around Nyabimata

School	Distance	Girls	Boys	Total
G.S Nyabimata (Secondary)	0 km	207	305	512
G.S Nyabimata (Primary)	0 km	778	792	1,570
G.S Muyira (Secondary)	5 km	68	105	173
G.S Muyira (Primary)	5 km	86	145	231
EP Mishungero	4 km	555	671	1,226
E.P Ruhinga	3 km	186	212	398
E.P Gihemvu	5 km	424	461	885
G.S Bigugu (Secondary)	4 km	239	248	487
EP Bigugu (Primary)	4 km	548	561	1,109
TOTAL		3,091	3,500	6,591

2. History and Development of the School

Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School is an educational institution located in Nyabimata Sector, Nyaruguru District, Southern Province, Republic of Rwanda. It is owned by the Catholic Diocese of Gikongoro.

The history of the school dates back to 1938, when it was established as Nyabimata Primary School. Since its establishment, the school has gradually evolved in response to the growing educational and training needs of the local population.

- 1938: Established as Nyabimata Primary School.
- 1995: The institution became known as Nyabimata School Centre.

- 2012: It was renamed Saint Michael Nyabimata School Group.
- Since 2021: It has officially operated under the name Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School, following the development of technical and vocational education and training.
- 2023: Nyabimata Parish was officially established, with a priest responsible for education in Nyabimata.

This institutional evolution reflects the school's commitment to adapting to changes in Rwanda's education system and responding to the evolving training needs of young people in the region.

Key Indicators

- Population of Nyabimata: 18,843 (8,850 men; 9,993 women)
- Area: 127 km²
- School land area: 37.939 ha
- Number of learners: approximately 2,000
- Classroom overcrowding: 33–67 learners per classroom
- Population density: 148 inhabitants/km²
- Poverty level: extreme
- School fees: FRW 18,000 per learner
- School dropout rate: 28%

3. Location and Historical Context

Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School is located in Nyabimata Sector, Nyaruguru District, Southern Province, Rwanda.

Historically and administratively, the institution was located in the former Kivu Commune, Gikongoro Prefecture. This former administrative entity had a twinning partnership with the Commune of Arwheiller in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. This cooperation contributed, among other things, to the development of school infrastructure in Nyabimata.

The historical partnership played an important role in improving learning conditions, particularly through the construction of 10 new classrooms. (See the photographs in the annex.)



4. OWNERSHIP AND MISSION OF THE SCHOOL

Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School is owned by the Catholic Diocese of Gikongoro. Since its establishment, it has contributed to the intellectual, human, moral and professional development of children and young people in Nyabimata and neighbouring sectors.

Today, the school provides education at different levels, from early childhood education to secondary education, including technical and vocational training.

Its main objectives are to:

- Promote access to quality education for children and young people.
- Contribute to the development of academic and professional skills.
- Prepare young people to pursue further education or progressively enter the labour market.
- Promote the holistic development of each learner.
- Respond to the educational needs of the local population.

5. Structure and Components of the School

5.1 Nursery School



Figure 1 Nursery students in classroom

The nursery section welcomes young children before they enter primary school. It represents the first stage of the educational journey within the school. It currently has 229 children, including 93 girls and 136 boys, distributed across 3 classrooms, with an average of approximately 76 children per classroom.

5.2 Primary School

The primary school currently has 1,005 pupils, including 508 girls and 497 boys. The pupils are distributed across 15 classrooms, with an average of approximately 67 pupils per classroom. This high enrolment demonstrates the important role played by the school in providing basic education to the local population.

5.3 Secondary Education

The school provides secondary education through different streams, including the Ordinary Level/Common Curriculum (Tronc Commun) and technical and vocational programmes. The Tronc Commun currently has 482

students, including 246 girls and 236 boys, distributed across 10 classrooms, with an average of approximately 48 students per classroom.

In addition, the school has a secondary section with 100 students, including 82 girls and 18 boys, distributed across 3 classes, with an average of approximately 33 students per class.

5.4 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TSS)

Since 2021, the school has strengthened its focus on technical and vocational education. The TSS section currently has 173 students, including 61 girls and 112 boys, distributed across 3 classrooms, with an average of approximately 58 students per classroom.

This component is particularly important in preparing young people to acquire practical and professional skills that can facilitate their transition into employment and contribute to the socio-economic development of their communities.

6. Current Student Enrolment

According to the available data, Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School currently has a total of 1,989 learners across all sections. The distribution is as follows:

Level	Girls	Boys	Total	Classes	Average / Class
Nursery School	93	136	229	3	76.3
Primary School	508	497	1005	15	67.0
Tronc Commun	246	236	482	10	48.2
Secondary Section	82	18	100	3	33.3
TSS / TVET	61	112	173	3	57.7
Total	990	999	1989	34	—

Reference classroom averages included in the source data: Nursery 35; Primary 30; Tronc Commun 25–30; Secondary Section 20–25; TSS/TVET 20–25.

The school therefore has an almost equal overall balance between girls and boys, with 990 girls and 999 boys. With 34 classrooms serving 1,989 learners, the school plays a major role in providing education to children and young people from Nyabimata and surrounding areas.

7. Teaching and Administrative Staff

The school currently has a team of 62 teachers, comprising 35 women and 27 men. It also has an administrative and management team of 8 staff members, including 4 women and 4 men.

Overall, the human resources directly involved in the operation of the school comprise 70 people: 62 teachers and 8 administrative and management staff members.

8. School Infrastructure and the Contribution of the Grundschle Ahrweiler in Rhineland-Palatinate

The development of the infrastructure of Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School has benefited significantly from the historical partnership between the former Kivu Commune and Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany.

- 2014–2015: construction of the first phase comprising 6 classrooms by Grundschle Ahrweiler in Rhineland-Palatinate
- 2015–2016: construction of a second phase comprising 4 classrooms by Grundschle Ahrweiler in Rhineland-Palatinate .

These facilities increased the school's capacity to accommodate learners and contributed to improving teaching and learning conditions. The twinning partnership therefore represents an important example of international cooperation that contributed to the development of local educational infrastructure.

9. Importance of the School to the Community

Educationally

The school enables a large number of children and young people to access education from early childhood through primary and secondary education to technical and vocational training.

Socially

The institution contributes to educating and preparing younger generations while helping reduce inequalities in access to education.

Professionally

The development of the TSS component provides young people with opportunities to acquire practical and technical skills that can facilitate their integration into the labour market and strengthen their capacity for entrepreneurship.

At community level

The school serves as an important centre for human development, around which many families from Nyabimata and neighbouring sectors depend for educational services.

10. Parent Involvement in the School through the Education Parents' Committee

The Education Parents' Committee is a key strategy of the Ministry of Education aimed at involving parents alongside school management in monitoring and supporting the education of children. The committee is operational but still requires further strengthening to become fully effective.



Figure 2 Parents during meeting, general assembly

11. Current Key Challenges

Despite its long history, importance and progressive development, Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School currently faces several infrastructure challenges that limit its ability to further improve the quality of the school environment. In addition to infrastructure challenges, the school needs stronger teacher support through reliable high-speed internet for distance training and further strengthening of the Education Parents' Committee.

11.1 Lack of a Proper Perimeter Fence

The school does not yet have an adequate perimeter fence to fully demarcate and secure the school grounds.

- Strengthen the safety and security of learners.
- Better control entry and exit to the school premises.
- Protect school infrastructure and equipment.
- Improve the organisation and management of the school grounds.
- Create a safer and more conducive environment for teaching and learning.

11.2 Lack of an Adequate Dining Hall

The school also lacks an appropriate dining hall. At lunchtime, pupils and students currently have to use classrooms as dining spaces. With nearly 2,000 learners, the absence of a dedicated dining facility is a significant constraint on the daily organisation of school life.

- Improve meal conditions for learners.
- Strengthen hygiene and sanitation.
- Ensure that meals are served in a more organised and appropriate environment.
- Contribute to the well-being, comfort and concentration of learners.

11.3 Lack of a Teachers' Room and Administrative Offices

The school also faces a shortage of professional and administrative working spaces, particularly a teachers' room and offices for administrative staff. With 62 teachers and 8 administrative and management staff members, the need for adequate working spaces is significant.

- Enable teachers to prepare lessons in suitable working conditions.
- Facilitate pedagogical and staff meetings.
- Improve coordination between teachers and school management.
- Provide better working conditions for staff.
- Strengthen administrative and academic management of the school.

11.4 Need for a Multipurpose Hall

Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School also needs a multipurpose hall. Such a facility could be used for meetings, training sessions, cultural activities, conferences, parent meetings, extracurricular activities, school ceremonies and other events involving large numbers of participants.

12. Development Prospects

Given its long history, institutional development and steadily increasing enrolment, Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School has significant potential to continue playing a central role in the educational development of the region.

1. Construction of a complete and secure perimeter fence.
2. Construction of an appropriate dining hall adapted to the size of the school population.
3. Construction of a teachers' room.
4. Construction of offices for administrative and academic staff.
5. Construction of a multipurpose hall.
6. Progressive improvement of infrastructure and equipment for technical and vocational education and training.
7. Strengthening of teaching and learning equipment to improve the quality of education.

8. Introduction of a renewable energy section, including appropriate facilities and equipment.
9. Increase in the number of classrooms to reduce overcrowding.
10. Establishment of a small farm with 5 dairy cows and 5 pigs to support disadvantaged learners.
11. Strengthening the capacity of the Education Parents' Committee.

These investments would enable the school to better respond to the increasing number of learners and create a safer, more functional and more conducive environment for learning and academic success.

13. Priority Challenges and Estimated Costs

No.	Challenge / Proposed Investment	Quantity	Estimated Cost (€)
1	Construction of a complete and secure perimeter fence	500 m	7,000
2	Construction of an appropriate dining hall adapted to the size of the school population	700 m ²	25,000
3	Construction of a teachers' room	400 m ²	10,000
4	Construction of offices for administrative and academic staff	300 m ²	10,000
5	Construction of a multipurpose hall	1,000 m ²	500,000
6	Progressive improvement of infrastructure and equipment for technical and vocational education and training	—	30,000
7	Strengthening teaching and learning equipment, including a library, high-speed internet and computers	—	300,000
8	Introduction of a renewable energy section, including facilities and equipment	—	2,000,000
9	Increase in the number of classrooms to reduce overcrowding	6 classrooms	60,000
10	Establishment of a small farm with 5 dairy cows and 5 pigs to support disadvantaged learners	—	6,000
11	Capacity building for the Education Parents' Committee	—	5,000
	Total over 5 years		2,963,000

14. Conclusion

Established in 1938, Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School has a history of nearly nine decades of service to education. Starting as a simple primary school, it has gradually developed into an integrated educational institution comprising nursery education, primary education, Tronc Commun, a secondary section, and a technical and vocational education and training component (TSS).

Today, with 1,989 learners, 34 classrooms, 62 teachers and 8 administrative and management staff members, Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School is an important educational institution serving Nyabimata Sector and Nyaruguru District more broadly.

Its history has also been shaped by cooperation with Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, which contributed to the strengthening of school infrastructure through the construction of several classrooms in 2014–2015 and 2015–2016.

However, the increase in enrolment and the changing needs of the institution now make additional investments necessary, particularly in perimeter fencing, a dining hall, teachers' and administrative working spaces, and a multipurpose hall.

Strengthening these facilities would enable Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School to pursue its educational mission under better conditions and further contribute to the education of children and young people, the development of practical and professional skills, and the socio-economic development of the Nyabimata community and Nyaruguru District.

Prepared in Nyabimata, 1 October 2026

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Saint Michael Nyabimata TSS School

Annex: Photographs

Photographs from the original presentation are to be retained in this annex in the final print layout.



Figure 3 General views of G.S. ST MICHEL NYABIMATA TSS



Figure 4 Students in classroom



Figure 5 Workshop for construction



Figure 6 Main entrance of G.S.SAINT MICHEL NYABIMATA TSS



Figure 7 one of classrooms built with the support of Grundsche Ahrweiler in the Rhineland-Palatinate



Figure 8 Others classrooms built with the support of Grundsche Ahrweiler with Rhineland-Palatinate partnership



Figure 9 Classrooms for TSS learners



Figure 10 Teachers house



Figure 11 Some teachers of G.S.SAINT MICHEL NYABIMATA TSS



Figure 12 Students playing with teachers



Figure 13 Rewarding students



Figure 14 Rewarding student



Figure 15 Teachers in meeting



Figure 16 Rewarding students



Figure 17 TSS students during practice



Figure 18 students during self-study



Figure 19 during practice of building tile



Figure 20 Students learning carpentry



Figure 21 Students learning construction