



Excellence in Maths!
From left, Thamsanqa, Bheki, and Sam

Velabahleke High School leads in Mathematics excellence

Student success is the mirror through which the excellent work of teachers is celebrated. Behind the notable mathematics results achieved by the matric learners of Velabahleke in the 2018 National Senior Certificate exams are two young men, Thamsanqa Vezi and Sam Mtshali. School principal Mr Bheki Mhlongo speaks very fondly of their excellent work. Thamsanqa has a BSc in Mathematics & Statistics from the University of Cape Town. He worked as an educator at Mqhawe High School in 2014 and has also worked for Sasria SOC Ltd as an Actuarial Analyst and for Nedbank Insurance. He joined Velabahleke High School as their mathematics educator in 2017 and is proud to be contributing to a township where he was born and grew up. Sam is from Empangeni in northern KZN and holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He worked as a tutor in the mathematics department at UKZN before joining Velabahleke in 2016.

In the NSC 2018 exams Velabahleke High School not only produced a learner who scored 100% for mathematics, but managed to achieve a total of 26 distinctions in the subject. This achievement is not to be taken lightly for a school that only offers pure maths to all its learners from grades 8 to 12. A total of 185 grade 12 learners wrote and all passed mathematics.

The school's overall achievement was a 100% pass with 128 Bachelor passes, 38 Diploma passes and 19 Higher Certificates. "I am very proud of the outstanding work of our educators. Through their hard work our school was awarded with top honours in the district with mathematics passes. Every educator at Velabahleke works hard to achieve the good results. We offer weekend mathematics lessons for all grades, not only to our own learners but also to learners from other schools including ex-model C schools. We have set a performance goal for ourselves and are working hand in hand with learners and parents to see to it that our 2020 target is achieved," said Mr Mhlongo. He joined Velabahleke as principal in 2016 and is confident that his vision for the school will ensure that its strong academic reputation is preserved for years to come.



Menzi High Principal, Muntu Ntombela, right, with former Umhlanga District Director, Bheki Ntuli, left, and MUT's DVC Teaching and Learning, Prof Marcus Ramogale

Menzi High School is still No.1

Four years after the death of Mr Felix Mshololo, who was principal at Menzi High School for more than twenty years, the school is still amongst the top achieving schools in KwaZulu-Natal. At the time of his passing Mshololo had created a brand that is known for academic excellence. Now led by Ms Muntu Ntombela, the school is still a force to be reckoned with. Since the commencement of MUT's Circle of Excellence awards in 2012, Menzi High School has been scooping awards as overall winner. In the 2018 NSC exams, Menzi High School not only achieved a 100% overall pass, it also achieved 100% passes in 10 out of the 12 matric subjects they offer. The strong message of academic excellence runs across from grade 8 up to grade 12 learners, educators and the school's administrative team. "No one person can claim this success; we achieve all this as a result of strong team work by all educators, including our grade 8 teachers. I am very proud of the entire team," said the soft-spoken and humble Muntu Ntombela.

A snapshot of Menzi High School's 2018 matric achievements:

Subject	No of learners who wrote	No of learners passed	% pass
Accounting	95	95	100
Business Studies	48	48	100
Economics	48	48	100
English	212	212	100
Geography	116	116	100
History	54	54	100
IsiZulu	212	212	100
Life Orientation	212	212	100
Life Sciences	164	162	99
Mathematics	158	147	92
Mathematics Literacy	54	54	100
Physical Sciences	110	110	100

*Overall Pass Percentage - 100%
Number of Bachelor Passes - 178
Number of Distinctions - 311

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Simangaliso Mthombeni



Citation: Culverts a medium for promotion of freshwater fish population biodiversity: A case study in the Durban Metropolitan, South Africa.
Supervisor: Professor M. Coopoosamy (MUT)
Co-supervisor: Professor A. Anandraj (MUT)
Employer: Countryline Horticulture, Umhlanga, Durban

Feziwe Ndebele



Citation: Comparison studies on the efficacy of glyphosate and organic fertilizer for the control of Parthenium hysterophorus in the Zulu Nyala Safari Game Lodge.
Supervisor: Professor A. Anandraj (MUT)
Co-supervisor: Professor M. Coopoosamy (MUT)
Employer: Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve under the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Musawenkosi Thami Cleopas Kunene



Citation: Investigation on the mortality trends of Celtis Africana (White stinkwood) at Hawaan Forest Nature Reserve: A case study in eThekweni Municipality, Umhlanga Rocks, KwaZulu-Natal, SA.
Supervisor: Professor A. Anandraj (MUT)
Co-supervisor: Professor GD Arthur (MUT)
Employer: eThekweni Municipality, Parks Recreation and Culture: Natural Resources Division

Torsten Shepherd



Citation: The Occurrence and Importance of Soil Microbes to the Ecological Restoration of Dune Forests in Northern KZN.
Supervisor: Prof M. Coopoosamy (MUT)
Goals: Restoring Previously Degraded Lands for Sustainable Use.
Employer: Currently employed in the Healthcare Sector.

Sithembile Nkosi



Citation: Ecophysiological studies of Anredera cordifolia and its control in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.
Supervisor: Dr K.K. Naidoo (MUT)
Co-supervisors: Professor GD Arthur (MUT) Dr W Otang-Mbeng (University of Mpumalanga).
Employer: Mangosuthu University of Technology, Department of Nature Conservation

Nkanyenzi Alfred Sigubudu



Citation: Validation for the use of medicinal plants for treating mental disorders in KwaZulu-Natal (uThukela District).
Supervisor: Professor M. Coopoosamy (MUT)
Employer: Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife