



# College of West Africa (CWA) Preparatory High School



## About the College of West Africa (CWA) Preparatory School

The College of West Africa (CWA) preparatory high school is located in Monrovia, Liberia. [Liberia](#) is a nation on the west coast of Africa founded in 1847 by freed slaves from the United States who arrived in what is now Liberia in 1822 with the help of the [American Colonization Society \(ACS\)](#). CWA is the second oldest secondary school in the country. Other notable mentions about CWA include:

- Established as the Monrovia Seminary in 1839
- Officially recognized as the College of West Africa in 1904
- Owned/run by Liberian Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Named United Methodist Historic site #457
  - One of only six historic sites outside of the United States
- Offers 13 subjects across 6 departments (Language Arts, Science, Social Science, Drafting, Computer Education, Home Economics)
- Extra curricula activities include Sports, Debate Club, Quiz Team, Press Club

## Current State of CWA

Today CWA is experiencing financial difficulty due to harsh economic conditions in Liberia. The country is rated amongst the [Top 10 Poorest Countries](#) in the world. Liberia's 30 plus years of political volatility, including a 14-year civil war, are contributing factors. Liberia's post conflict recovery began in 2005, but has experienced multiple starts and stops which have contributed to CWA's financial hardship including:

- Impact of the 2008 global financial crisis exacerbated conditions
- Outbreak of the 2014 Ebola epidemic compounded the situation
- Post Ebola economic downturn and currency devaluation followed
- COVID-19 impacts to the global economy also affecting Liberia locally

As Liberia prepares to recognize the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of freed slaves who helped found Liberia, next year (2022), CWA has a unique opportunity to celebrate its historic place in the founding of the Republic.

## Future Direction of CWA

Today, CWA has 349 students (grades 10–12) and 66 faculty and staff. CWA operates on funds from tuition only (\$526 per student) without subsidies. The school continues to look for opportunities to supplement teacher pay. Infrastructure needs repair, access to reliable internet service continues to be a challenge, and gender diversity opportunities exist.

To make a positive impact and help students achieve academic success, prepare for difficult life choices, enhance inclusive culture competencies, and gain critical leadership essentials, [CWA Alumni Association USA Inc.](#), (501c3) is seeking [donations \(click to donate\)](#) to launch these key platforms:

- Office of Diversity Equity & Inclusion and Career Services
- Women & Girls Leadership Forum
- Change Leadership Academy
- Guidance Counseling and Teacher Accountability Office
- Paid Summer Jobs/Internships Program
- Preservation of CWA as a Liberian national landmark/heritage site

Advancing an Inclusive and Engaged Culture where students of diverse backgrounds collaborate, drive innovation, high performance and exceptional results



College of West Africa Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Career Services



Earnestine F. W. Smith Women and Girls Leadership Forum



Bishop Francis Burns Change Leadership Academy



Guidance Counseling & Teacher Accountability



Designation of CWA as National Landmark & Heritage Site

Leveraging the power of inclusion to unlock our diversity and full potential

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