



Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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LCS: One of the Best Secondary Education Programs in Haiti

by Amanda Haluga (THP Director of Charism and Missionary Program)

For nearly four decades, Louverture Cleary School has provided quality Catholic education to hundreds of students each year who would otherwise be unable to attend secondary school, a critical step toward ending poverty for the students and their families. LCS's rigorous academic education and formation steeped in community service create a solid foundation for its reputation of excellence. Through times of calm and crisis alike, LCS has provided stability for students, staff, and its surrounding community, while continuing to graduate high-achieving individuals who will go on to transform communities, workplaces, industries, and their country.

Louverturians study a variety of

subjects over their seven years at the school in a curriculum that doesn't just adhere to the Haitian Ministry of Education's requirements, it exceeds them. The curriculum includes four languages—Kreyòl, French,

English and Spanish—religion, mathematics, sciences, computers, social studies, literature, physical education, citizenship, music, and more. Classes not only challenge bright minds but also help create well-rounded people.

In return, much is expected of Louverturians who know that the top-notch, tuition-free education they



National Laureates and Class of 2023 graduates Marquez M. (left) and Joovica J. (right) visited LCS in November to encourage students.

receive is not for them personally, but for their country. When such an academically rigorous program requires students to regularly participate in Work Hour and perform community service for the school and its surrounding community, the message is sent that service to others is an integral part of life. As *Philo* (13th grade) student Cardley M. believes, "Excellence

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THP Highlights

Out of the Park Success: The numbers for THP's annual *Back to School* campaign are in, and this year's results were a grand slam! Thanks to everyone who generously supported the campaign, the Project raised almost \$84,000—far exceeding the original goal of \$30,000! Special thanks to those who issued challenge gifts to motivate the community, including the Brun family, the LeGrand family, and Charles and Joy Wharton. THP often says that a mission is only as strong as the community who sends it. This campaign certainly showed the strength of THP's wonderful community, and we are grateful to everyone for continuing to believe in a brighter future for Haiti.

Above and Beyond: A huge thank you to THP board member Kristin Soukup, who went above and beyond for this fall's *Back to School* campaign. In September, Kristin hosted a tailgate party during the Notre Dame vs. Duke football game, featuring backyard games and a local Haitian art auction. The "Fighting Irish" were not the only ones who came out in the lead that day: Kristin exceeded her goal of \$3,000 by almost \$1,500, making Kristin's fourth fundraiser for the *Back to School* campaign a big winner for THP, too! Interested in hosting an event for THP? Email development@haitianproject.org for suggestions and help!

A Halloween Treat: Members of the THP board, staff and community were in attendance to hear THP trustee, early board member, and sustaining supporter of The Haitian Project Brian Moynihan speak to a room of nearly 500 people on values, finance and his approach to leadership at a breakfast in Boston, MA on October 31st. It was a treat to hear the CEO of Bank of America speak for over five minutes on some of his history with The Haitian Project, ending his comments on the Project with the observation that more programs like Louverture Cleary School are needed in Haiti. THP agrees—and looks forward to the LCS Network!

U.S. Community

Most Appreciated Community,

As another challenging year in Haiti comes to a close, I want you to know how grateful we are for YOU. Without your steadfast support, we could not remain a source of stability and hope in a country where both can seem in short supply.

Together, we have already accomplished a lot this year. First and foremost, our amazing leadership team at Louverture Cleary School leveraged their considerable expertise and dedication to keep our doors open amidst some of the most difficult conditions in our hemisphere.

As a result, LCS continued to be a lifeline to the entire school community and the surrounding neighborhood as well. At the same time, the school remained a beacon of hope for what Haiti can become: a country where love, justice, and progress prevail over *dezòd* (chaos).

The fortitude of our students can be an inspiration to us all. The weight of the situation outside the walls of the school is significant, but LCS once again had a 100 percent pass rate on the national state exams for both the *Katryèm* (9th grade) class and the *Philo* (13th grade) class that graduated this summer. In fact, in the class of 2023, we had TWO laureates who placed third and fifth on the exam nationally!

What's more, we continued to make preparations for our second school, adding key staff members to the "start-up" teams for LCS 2. The situation may be incredibly demanding, but it is critical that we continue to see beyond the current moment to a brighter future. For us, of course, that involves opening more schools and creating the Louverture Cleary Schools Network.

Because Haiti has never needed Louverturians more.

With only a few weeks left to meet our funding goals for the year, we need everyone's help to make sure that The Haitian Project can continue to do the most for those who have the very least. Unfortunately, the news about Haiti has caused some funders to pull back at a time when the cost of operations has only become more expensive.

BUT we are still there, fully operational and successfully fulfilling our mission ... and dependent on your support to keep moving forward.

That is why in this season of giving, I ask that you please give what you can TODAY. And if you are fortunate enough to find yourself in a position to make a second or larger gift this year, I pray that you will consider doing so. You know it will be put to immediate and excellent use.

As we've said before, this is the time to step up, not back. Thank you for continuing to support Haiti's future servant-leaders.

Wishing you and yours a blessed Advent,



Reese Grondin
President – The Haitian Project, Inc.

Best Secondary Program

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at LCS is about attaining the highest levels of personal and professional growth, not just for oneself, but to serve others."

In addition to their work ethic and servant-leadership, Louverturians stand out among their peers through their success on national standardized exams. All students in Haiti must take the *Katryèm* (9th grade) state exam to matriculate from the fundamental curriculum to secondary, and then the *Philo* baccalaureate exam to gain acceptance to university. Impressively, LCS achieves a 100 percent pass rate on both exams every year. It is not uncommon to see a Louverturian among the region's or nation's top scorers, and the Class of 2023 produced not one but TWO national laureates, even during an extraordinarily challenging time in Haiti.

Marquez M. (LCS '23) was the nation's top scorer on his 2019 *Katryèm* state

exam and repeated his success in 2023, placing third in the nation on the *Philo* baccalaureate exam. Joovica J. (LCS '23) joined Marquez as a 2023 *Philo* national laureate, placing fifth in all of Haiti. LCS Economics Department Head Djim G. (LCS '14), who taught Marquez and Joovica throughout their time at LCS, reflects: "Excellence is knitted into LCS's identity. Their performance in the national exam serves as a reminder of the potential LCS students possess and reflects the effectiveness of our programs and the resilience of our community."

The culmination of the secondary education LCS provides is going on to university, the workforce, and leadership roles in Haiti. The Dulcich Center for Career Advancement operated by THP's partner foundation in Haiti, Fondation Haitian Project, crucially supports graduates by providing university scholarships, and assisting in job placement and professional networking opportunities for

alumni. According to *Philo* student Keynia J., "LCS's excellence serves as our constant motivation—a guiding compass that keeps us on the right track toward realizing our vision of a better society."

Private sector leader Patrick B., head of Fondation Haitian Project, sees the importance of LCS not only around Port-au-Prince, but throughout Haiti: "The broader impact Louverturians have on their families and communities as they embark on successful lives of service in Haiti is significant, which is why THP often says, 'a Louverture Cleary education can change a life, and through that life, a thousand more.' Once the LCS Network operates at scale, the entire nation will feel the transformative impact."

Reflecting on LCS's excellence, he concludes, "This narrative serves not only as a testament to our unwavering commitment, but also as a reminder that, in both good and tough times, we persist without compromising our standards."

A Solar (R)evolution on Campus

by Jimi Grondin (THP Director of New School Construction)

The earth has circled the sun 18 times since the first solar arrays were installed on the flagship Louverture Cleary School campus. The systems went up in phases between August 2005 and January 2007, with the Radia Science Lab added in April 2020, thanks to the efforts and expertise of Mickey Ingles of WorldWater and Solar Technologies; Patrick B., head of Fondation Haitian Project, THP's partner foundation in Haiti; Adam Osielski, THP Volunteer '02-'04; and the Rockford Men's Group of Rockford, IL.

Every building was equipped with its own system of panels, inverter, charger, and batteries. The result was over 54 kilowatts (kW) worth of panels and 12 dozen batteries scattered across rooftops and tucked in the niches of the campus. This massive undertaking of talent and resources freed LCS from unreliable utility power and drastically reduced dependence on back-up generators.

Over the past 18 years, the batteries have charged during the day and discharged their stored energy at night more than 6,500 times. The state-of-the-art storage available back then was gel lead-acid batteries. These were heavy, expensive, and at best lasted 1,000 cycles under normal operating conditions. But the demands for power on a campus with over 400 people are high, and the prohibitive cost of assembling adequately large battery banks never allowed for "normal" operating scenarios. As a result, most of the batteries that have cycled through LCS over the years have been exhausted by their 700th charge. It has been a constant struggle to keep the battery banks at optimum output.

Thankfully, in that span of 18 years, solar technology has evolved at a rapid speed. New systems are available that will greatly increase efficiency and allow LCS to obtain optimum solar performance. The Radia Science Lab was the first building to use paired inverters capable of delivering 220 volts, compared to the old inverters that could only produce 110 volts. And this

fall, the east section of campus received the newest inverter—a hybrid model that combines several components into one powerful unit. This state-of-the-art model will also be used to power future campuses in the Louverture

Cleary School Network.

The new inverters can also be paired with the latest battery technology. Lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO₄) batteries provide 10 times the life cycles of lead acid batteries and can be regularly discharged to 90 percent. (Lead acid batteries work best at 20 percent discharge; at 50 percent, the life cycle halves. Further discharge degrades the life cycle at a rapidly increasing rate.) LiFePO₄ batteries can also deliver higher amounts of current over longer periods of time and require less maintenance than lead acid batteries. These new generation lithium *iron* batteries are safer even than the lithium-*ion* batteries we all have become familiar with (e.g., the batteries in cordless drills, etc.) because they are built with fewer hazardous materials. Furthermore, a 20 kilowatt-hour (kWh) bank of LiFePO₄ batteries cycling at 90 percent is at least \$1,000 cheaper than a 40 kWh bank of lead acid batteries cycling at 50 percent, hence providing a comparable amount of storage and output.

Solar panels, too, have increased in efficiency and decreased in price. Almost two decades ago, solar panels were selling for \$7 per watt; today, costs are down to \$0.42 per watt. The current campus is outfitted with panels that average about 350 watts; the new schools in the LCS



Solar panels on the Agora Building on the LCS campus, which houses the library, classrooms, and the boys' dorm. LCS's solar capabilities freed the school from unreliable utility power and drastically reduced dependence on back-up generators.

Network will have panels that produce 600—700 watts. With the newest technologies requiring fewer individual panels, components, and batteries, the new schools will also reap the benefits of centralized power production, storage, and distribution systems.

LCS's solar capabilities will continue to evolve and new technology will continue to be implemented. Battery banks and combining systems will continue to be replaced with new hybrid inverters. There are already plans for a dedicated array to provide 220 volt power to water and septic pumps on the LCS campus.

With each cycle of the sun, more improvements will be made, and for years and years to come, LCS—and all campuses of the LCS Network—will be shining points of (solar) light.

Do you or someone you know want to invest in solar power at LCS? The school needs \$100,000 in critical solar upgrades over the next 12 months, and we could use your help! Email us at development@haitianproject.org to learn more.

Louverturians Leading Louverturians: Catching Up with LCS Principal Myriam J. (LCS' 10)

by HPN Staff

Louverture Cleary School students and graduates are well known for standing out among their peers. Whether being recognized for their work ethic, language skills, willingness to serve, or academic aptitude, it is thanks to their seven years at LCS near Port-au-Prince—and, soon, other locations around Haiti as the Louverture Cleary School Network grows—and the examples set for them.

While dozens of individuals serve as role models for students, none have a more significant role in the formation of Louverturians than the alumni who return to the school to serve as members of the staff and administration. One shining example is LCS Principal Myriam J. (LCS '10).

After graduating from LCS, Myriam attended Université Quisqueya to study secondary education with minors in English and Spanish instruction. She joined the LCS Junior Staff work-study program for alumni in 2012 and has worked in many areas of LCS since, including Student Life, Academics, and the *Koukouy Sen Klè* (Fireflies of St. Clare) early childhood development program. Now, in her new role as LCS principal this year, Myriam is putting that experience to good use in leading the school, helping train new staff in leadership positions, and setting an example of academic excellence, strong work ethic, and true servant-leadership for current students.

HPN: How did your LCS education prepare you for your role as principal?

MJ: An LCS education focuses on the citizen-leader. Not just intellectuals, but future leaders who will be able to fulfill a social role in the pursuit of a better Haiti. That is the education I received from LCS, and as the principal, my role is to ensure the perpetuation of the training of future leaders with the responsibility to change Haiti.

HPN: What do you like about your position?

MJ: What I like about my position is the fact that I now have the opportunity to make decisions that I believe will contribute to the success of LCS, helping to produce citizens aware of their individual and collective responsibility in the advancement of the country.

HPN: What is the most important thing you believe LCS does to encourage leadership skills in its female students, and why?

MJ: LCS is managed by a staff of mainly women. It's a good example of female leadership. In addition, several seminars



LCS Principal Myriam J. (LCS '10) visits with students on study break.

are organized each year on the emancipation of women and what helps girls cultivate self-esteem, self-confidence, virtue, and leadership skills.

HPN: Why is it so important that LCS and the creation of the LCS Network are being led by Haitians?

MJ: LCS has been preparing leaders for nearly forty years. Seeing these leaders in charge of the institution that trained them—and training other leaders—shows that we have confidence in our system. What's more, Louverturian leaders have a responsibility to rebuild Haiti. So it's important that Haitians are in charge of the machine.

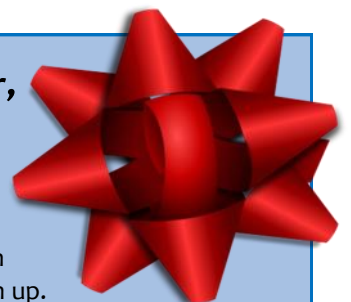
HPN: What role do you believe LCS and the LCS Network have to play in Haiti's future, especially given recent events?

MJ: LCS must continue to be a generator of conscious leaders taking concrete actions for real change. Events show that Haiti needs more Louverture Cleary Schools. A single LCS generates too few leaders for the impact to be visible. The work LCS does in the community is colossal. The impact must be greater.

**Looking for a thoughtful gift for a teacher, friend, family member, or just about anyone else this holiday season?
Give the Gift of Education, it is the gift that never stops giving!**

Make a donation in any amount to The Haitian Project in honor of a friend or family member this holiday season, and THP will send your loved one a Christmas card notifying them of the gift given in their honor. Visit www.haitianproject.org/donate, or fill out and return the enclosed form to sign up.

CONTACT THE HAITIAN PROJECT FOR MORE INFORMATION AT: 1-401-351-3624 or development@haitianproject.org



LCS Student Views

Ken Wailly C. Twazyèm (10th grade)

I am Ken Wailly C., a student from *Twazyèm* (10th grade). The life I am living is at LCS, this great institution dedicated to promoting knowledge, empowerment, and social justice. I am from Port-au-Prince, but I moved closer to the school where I live with my uncle and aunt.

I knew about LCS because of people next to my house describing LCS as a good quality education provider. Being at LCS and enjoying its education means a lot to me. It gives me education, bridges the gap for me in an underserved community, and it gives me the knowledge and skills that can transform my life and my community.

Besides the education LCS provides to me, I like my break times and play hours which are the only moments of the day where I can chill out and think about the good actions or the bad actions I made throughout the day.

One of my favorite classes has to be English, because it is a whole journey of discovery and exploration of the human experience, diving into works from Shakespeare to contemporary literature and into characters' minds. Beyond the classroom, my favorite activity is playing basketball because it feeds my competitive spirit.

The simplest goal I fixed this year is to succeed in this grade and pass to the next class. I am currently involved in a program dedicated to teaching and mentoring the *Sizyèm* (7th grade), *Senkyèm* (8th grade) and *Katryèm* (9th grade) students, helping

them overcome educational challenges and pass to their next class.

For my future, I find myself torn between two distinct, yet equally compelling, aspirations. In the future I want to be on one hand a diplomat, and on the other, a professional basketball player.

Lynn Keysha D. Senkyèm (8th grade)

My name is Lynn Keysha D. I am 12 years old, and I am in *Senkyèm* (8th grade). I lived with my mother, my father and my grandmother, who unfortunately passed away recently. Now I am living near the school only with my parents.

I learned about the school through my cousins who went there. Every time they came to visit us, my mom was always impressed because of their good behavior and the way they talked with politeness and courtesy. This made my parents like the school. They were always telling me that I will be in this school, and I don't regret this decision.

For me, the Louverturian education is not only schooling, but it's also social, because what we are learning at school will help us in the future to build a bright and better Haiti. My favorite thing at LCS might be the Louverturian mentality, which makes people capable of giving the best of themselves in everything they



LCS *Twazyèm* (10th grade) student Ken Wailly C. (left) and LCS *Senkyèm* (8th grade) student Lynn Keysha D. (right)

are doing.

I really like the cultural and educational activities the school offers. During those activities, like the assembly every year on October 17th for the celebration of Jean Jacques Dessalines, I learn a lot about the meaning of those events. There is another activity I like a lot called *Minuit Chrétien*, an evening Christmas program of carols, prayers and activities where everyone is sharing one common feeling which is love.

I am not really involved in a lot of activities, but I participate in some clubs like theater.

For this school year, my expectations are to be the best of myself, to have good grades and be a great student, to make the Louverturian mentality grow in myself, and to be capable to extend it in Haiti.

When I am going to leave the school, I see myself as a lawyer because I really like this profession and the possibility that you have to defend good and right people.

Did you know there are many ways to support The Haitian Project?

Visit www.haitianproject.org/donate to give today or for more information regarding **recurring donations, memorial gifts, planned giving, corporate matching gifts, gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds, IRA qualified charitable distributions, donor advised funds**, and more. You can also contact THP at 401-351-3624 or by email at development@haitianproject.org to learn how your tax-deductible donation can provide talented young men and women at LCS with a top-notch, tuition-free, secondary education steeped in service and civic-mindedness!

Ahead of the Curve: Growth of the Haitian Ministry of Education Curriculum at LCS

by Abbigaëlle S. (LCS Dean of Academics, LCS '18)

Louverture Cleary School is a Catholic boarding school in Haiti dedicated to the education of underprivileged children. Its mission is to instruct and educate students while preparing them to become leaders capable of contributing to the reconstruction of Haiti. It plays an important role in the training of young Haitians, emphasizing educational and moral values, as well as autonomy and a sense of responsibility. This institution contributes to the country's future by training students who can play a key role in the nation's development.

The school has a long history of educational vision and innovation. Ahead of its time, LCS included art, music and sport in its curriculum long before the Haitian Ministry of Education's 2023 requirements for it to do so. *But why?*

The answer lies in the desire to produce well-balanced, well-educated individuals capable of serving their country, Haiti, to the best of their ability.

The early integration of art, music and sport into the curriculum at LCS was an initiative that demonstrated the school's commitment to the holistic development of its students. This innovative approach not only promoted students' physical and mental well-being, but also enhanced their creativity, artistic expression and teamwork skills. By focusing on these areas from an early age, the school has prepared its alumni to become well-rounded citizens, aware of the importance



Past Head of School Ernst V., who was instrumental in developing the music program at LCS, teaching a music class in 2019; Ernst passed away earlier this year.

of art, culture and sport in their lives.

In addition, LCS was also ahead of the Ministry of Education's 2017 mandate to include economics across the four-year secondary curriculum in Haiti. Economics had been a capstone course for *Philo* (13th grade) students at LCS since 2012. With the 2017 mandate, LCS simply made additions to its already thriving program. Students began learning economics in *Twazyèm* (10th grade), leading to a culmination in the *Philo* capstone. In addition, in 2021 LCS began incorporating accounting and finance in the curriculum. These bold decisions reflected the school's concern to prepare its students for the economic challenges of the modern world. By integrating the study of economics, students have acquired essential skills to understand the workings of the Haitian and global economy, as well as to make informed decisions in their professional and personal lives.

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Mission Statement

The Haitian Project through its support of Louverture Cleary Schools, a national network of tuition-free, Catholic, co-educational secondary boarding schools in Haiti, provides for the education of academically-talented and motivated students from Haitian families who cannot afford the cost of their children's education in order to maximize their potential and enable them to work toward building a Haiti where justice and peace thrive.

To donate, visit

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Thank you for your support of, and prayers for, our community in Haiti. The students, staff, and administration of The Haitian Project and Louverture Cleary School wish you and yours a wonderful and blessed Christmas.