



Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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Congratulations, Louverturians! Celebrating the Louverture Cleary School Class of 2023

By Amanda Haluga (THP Director of Charism & Missionary Program)

The Haitian Project and Louverture Cleary School (LCS) celebrated the school's 28th graduation on Saturday, July 15th. At the ceremony, 46 students received their diplomas while surrounded by their classmates and proud families, LCS administration and staff, and members of THP's partner foundations in Haiti.

Like their recent predecessors, the LCS Class of 2023 has endured extremely challenging times in their country, especially around the nation's capital of Port-au-Prince. When COVID-19 cut the 2019-2020 school year short, this class was in their fourth year at LCS. During their final three years, they persevered through increasing instability and supported one another to succeed despite the ongoing turmoil.

Looking back over their seven years at LCS, this class stood out with their accomplishments. Their academic success included a national laureate in 2019, when member Marquez M. had the top score on the *Katryèm* (9th grade) state exam. The students craved knowledge and creative expression:

trivia, music, and the written word were some favorites of this talented class. When the pandemic temporarily curtailed some outreach programs for the surrounding neighborhood, this class was especially eager for them to resume, recognizing the need to serve the

community and to set the example of service for the newest students.

Graduate Schevencia F. reflected, "At LCS I learned many things, but one will always remain engraved in my memory: helping others without expecting anything in return. Showing a willingness to help those around me to flourish, with love and devotion, is one of the things I've learned to love and intend to continue doing after graduation."

Another graduate, Jonathan F., added,



Head of THP's partner foundations in Haiti Patrick B. stands with LCS graduate Camille S.; at the podium, (at left) LCS Principal Marjorie M. (LCS '07) stands with LCS Head of School Esther P. (LCS '02).

"I'm most proud of my time at LCS, because I have helped young people succeed, and I am proud to be a servant-leader."

Though well equipped to further their studies, secure employment, support their families, and be leaders in their communities, the current state of Haiti will challenge them. As they go on to "be the change [they] wish to see in the world" (the Mahatma Gandhi quote is a

(Continued on page 2)

"This graduating class ... will be remembered for their intellectual curiosity and their optimistic and proactive approach when facing new challenges. Their commitment to community service and their tireless efforts to uplift those around them will definitely leave a mark to guide the future generations of LCS."

— LCS Economics Dept. Head Djim G. (LCS '14)



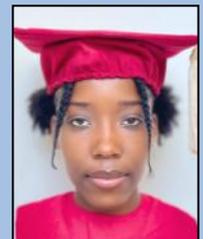
Roold's Sabiladji B.



Eudes Andy B.



Madocheé B.



Withney C.

(Photos continued on pages 2 & 3)

LCS Class of 2023



Holdy Bertrand C.



Luk Esther D.



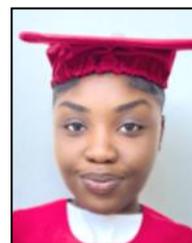
Wood Stevenson D.



Christie D.



Sondy Love
Schaïder D.



Djenika Beverlee D.



Krisrosly
Sébastien D.



Britney Ycar E.



Jonathan F.



Shevencia F.



Emie Christina
Marthe F.



Victoria G.



Fabrice G.



Benley G.



Saraphina G.



Bendina Schnaïca G.



Hadassa H.



Joovica Jenny J.



Laurie Schama J.



Malaïka J. J.



Richardson J. F.

school favorite), they will have the support of the Dulcich Center for Career Advancement's university scholarship and job placement program ... and each other.

Economics Department Head Djim G. (LCS '14) taught this class both in the classroom and through extracurricular activities: "They will be remembered for their intellectual curiosity and their optimistic approach when facing new challenges. I hope they find fulfillment in their chosen career, using their talents to contribute to creating a better Haiti. As they embark on a new chapter in their lives, I wish them strength to face the adversity with much resilience, uplifting each other."

Looking at the road ahead, graduate Sébastien D. recalled "one of the lessons I learned at LCS is 'Sa mwen ye a, se sa mwen ye,' which means 'I am who I am.' This is really important to take with us after graduation because we will have to face situations where we might have to conform. As I learned from my religion class this year, despite all the delicate

"To rebuild Haiti, we should start with educated citizens, citizens who respect the law and want to contribute to the development of Haiti. And Haiti needs young people who are responsible, who love education, and respect the opinions of their neighbors. I want everything back in Haiti so that we can live in peace."

—Bendina Schnaïca G. (LCS '23)

situations I will face in the future, I have to stay the person that I am, including the Louverture values which became a second nature for me."

LCS Principal Marjorie M. (LCS '07) watched this class grow since their *Sizyèm* (7th grade) year: "When they were young, most of them were shy. As they've grown, they've shown just how much they've learned and how

responsible they are. They are good examples for the youngest. They are good collaborators and communicators and work with their hearts. We hope they continue to bring the light outside of LCS."

This article features a selection of quotes from this year's graduates:

My hope for Haiti's future is to have educated people, because education is the first step towards development. If we ever want to rebuild Haiti, it should start with educated citizens who are aware of their responsibilities and have the capacity to contribute to Haiti's development. I also hope that citizens have the morality to care about their neighbors, their friends, and the people around them. I believe that if Haitians have these two things (good education and morality), they will be able to find good solutions to Haiti's problems.

—Joovica Jenny J.

LCS Class of 2023



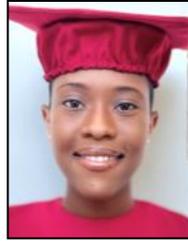
Rostande Pascale J.



Carine Shirley L.



Erinne Maykicha L.



Naïké L.



Coetzer M.



Roosevelt M.



Clyde Adriano M.



Marquez
Karagounis M.



Mirline M.



Jean Jephthé M.



Jeff Fedner M.



Darlendy Ingrid P.



Achelis P.



Christerline P.



Stafarah R. N.



Camille S.



Neduival S.



Sophonie S.



Shenalda S.



Samara Djeniflore S.



Bill James-Sky V.

I would like to see Haiti safer, with more people educated and less insecurity. I would like to see humans living better. I would like to see them claiming their rights and respecting the rights of others. I would like to see more people influencing good things. I would like to see people sharing what they have. For myself, I know it is going to be hard, but I will do my best to influence others in good things. As I am a debater, I will convince them there are good reasons to do good!

— **Bill James-Sky V.**

Since my childhood I have always said that I should make my own influential mark and at the same time be an influential woman. I really want to participate in my country's development by giving a new education to the coming generation so that they can see things in a different way. I would like to change the education system ... this is for me the best way to achieve that goal.

— **Emie Christina Marthe F.**

I wish for Haiti to have many educated people, because education is the key to the development of a country. To rebuild Haiti, we should start with educated citizens, citizens who respect the law and want to contribute to the development of Haiti. And Haiti needs young people who are responsible, who love education, and respect the opinions of their neighbors. I want everything back in Haiti so that we can live in peace, and I would like God to change the hearts of all those who have bad thoughts in their heads.

— **Bendina Schnaïca G.**

As we can all notice, the situation in Haiti is getting worse and worse every day, and because of that, living a good life is really complicated. For the future of Haiti, I hope that the leaders of the country will consent a lot of effort for its development. As a Louverturian, I am going to do all possible to participate in this development. Even if I don't start by doing huge things, I know that making little

steps is going to have a big impact in the future.

— **Holdy Bertrand C.**

LCS gives to me a chance to be a helper for my country. After my seven years at school, I can see in myself a responsible leader. After LCS, I would like to be a judge so that I can begin to build Haiti by making justice in my environment. I would like to be a source of motivation for each Louverturian and for every single person around me.

— **Withney C.**

During my time at LCS, I have learned a lot. It was a rich time of learning, not only for academic skills but also for my life generally. One of the things that I learned and that I will take with me after graduation is leadership. This is the capacity to manage a group of people the right way, to help people, and also to make good decisions at the moment.

— **Jeff Fedner M.**

Throughout my seven years at Louverture Cleary I have learned many lessons, but

Congratulations, Louverturians!

(Continued)

the one which has struck the most is a celebrated sentence written on a wall at school by Mahatma Gandhi: 'Be the change you wish to see.' That sentence reflects 100 percent my life as a Haitian, because right now I know that I would like to improve or to change society. I have to start it by myself. I have to be the first and the best example; I have to be the model. I am ready so that after graduation, I shall start concretizing the change I always wish to see, which is Haiti's development.



The LCS Class of 2023 during the graduation ceremony

— Roosevelt M.

My dream for Haiti is to do my best to help Haiti walk the path of development. As one of the school's sayings indicates so well, as I always say: I am ready to rebuild Haiti, and you?

— Sophonie S.

The LCS Class of 2023 proves that The Haitian Project is still succeeding at its mission despite the significant challenges in Haiti. But it wouldn't be possible without you — our wonderful and dedicated THP community.

Please consider making a special gift in honor of the incredible young men and women of Louverture Cleary School's 28th graduating class, so that we may continue to educate the future servant-leaders of Haiti!

- **Donate online** at HaitianProject.org where it is easy (and very helpful!) to set up a recurring donation
- Give through an **IRA** with a **tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution**
- Make a legacy contribution through **Planned Giving**
- Give the gift of **Stock** or **Mutual Funds**, or through a **Donor Advised Fund**
- Participate in your employer's **Corporate Matching Gifts Program**
(THP can help you check if your company has a Matching Gifts Program)
- Donate through **Venmo** at [@HaitianProject](https://www.venmo.com/HaitianProject)
- **Donations can also be mailed** to The Haitian Project:
PO Box 6891, Providence, RI 02940

Visit www.haitianproject.org/donate for more information on these various options.

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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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