



Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

Volume 36 • September 2023 • Issue 1

LCS Opens for the 2023-2024 School Year After a Busy Summer

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

Louverture Cleary School kicked off the new school year on time on September 11th. Given the tremendous challenges Haiti faces, it would be hard to overstate the importance of this accomplishment. We cannot give enough thanks to the administration, staff, and teachers whose dedication ensures LCS runs smoothly each and every day!

This year, the bustle and excitement of the first days of school were not sudden; the LCS campus had been active for weeks. Summer break was especially short with graduation taking place in mid-July, but the community made the most of it, continuing to provide services to the neighborhood and working hard to plan and prepare for classes and programs to

resume.

In August, community members began returning to campus in various groups to prepare for the new academic year. Staff and students received their annual

Safe Environment and Emergency Plan trainings, which are important for ensuring a safe and healthy environment on campus, as well as preparing for unexpected events such as extreme weather, natural disasters, and the insecurity prevalent in the country.

The last week of August saw the new



Louverture Cleary School students gather for morning assembly as LCS starts its 36th year!

class of *Sizyèm* (7th grade) students gathered to participate in a new student orientation program facilitated by an incredible team of LCS staff and junior staff. The new students stayed on campus, became familiar with the daily routine, worked together, and even got their first taste of the school's four languages

(continued on page 2)

THP Highlights

100 Percent Perfect! The results are just in and THP is excited to report that Louverture Cleary School has continued its tradition of excellence with another 100 percent pass rate for both the *Katryèm* (9th grade) state exam and the *Philo* (13th grade) Baccalaureate exam. LCS's historic pass rate is 100 percent, particularly impressive with the period of recent instability in Haiti. These achievements are just one of the many reasons LCS is known as one of the very best secondary education programs in the country. It will be interesting to see what these inspiring and talented students accomplish in the future!

THP Back to School Time: Now that fall is here, THP is excited to begin its annual *Back to School* campaign, where community members can host personal virtual fundraisers or donate in honor of Louverture Cleary students as they begin their new school year. This campaign is the perfect way to start the new year, ensuring that Louverturians can continue to receive a quality education! Over the course of two weeks, fundraisers will be reaching out to family and friends to ask them to *step up, not back*, for LCS and Haiti. Let's make this year's *Back to School* campaign the best yet! Visit thpbacktoschool2023.raisely.com today!

Second Seminar a Success: In July, the LCS Class of 2023 participated in the second annual *Business Ethics and Better Money Habits Seminar* developed and presented in partnership with Bank of America (BoFA) Private Bank. Presenters from BoFA, BoFA Private Bank, THP, and THP's partner foundations in Haiti discussed business values, analyzed a case study, and presented lessons on professionalism, networking, and financial literacy. As these Louverturians enter the next chapters of their lives, they will no doubt put all the lessons they've learned, along with their formation steeped in community service, to great use as Haiti's future leaders and changemakers.

LCS Opens for the 2023-2024 School Year

cont. from page 1

(Kreyòl, French, English, and Spanish) when learning the school song and key prayers. Newly-appointed LCS Principal Myriam J. (LCS '10) noted, "The school year is about to start and everyone is doing their best to make it happen. It's important to prepare the new students for community life. We take the time to present the Charism [spiritual identity] of the community and how we live day by day."

In the beginning of September, the *Rhétò* (12th grade) and *Philo* (13th grade) classes attended their annual leadership seminar to prepare them to be the student leaders of the school, respectively referred to as *Moniteurs* (monitors) and *Guides* (guides). Lessons, teambuilding activities, campus work, and shared time

as a community let them reconnect and prepared them to rise to the challenge of leading the student body. "They are going to be responsible for their dorms, clean-up, and Work Hour groups," said Myriam. "It's important for them to know certain characteristics of a leader, how they can be great leaders."

Other activities this summer included service from the LCS Outreach Department to the school's neighborhood through its annual summer day camp, which provides structured play, games, lessons, and meals in a safe and healthy environment for the children who participate in the *Koukouy Sen Klè* (Fireflies of St. Clare) early childhood development program and the *Lekòl Ankourajman* after-school literacy program for children and adults in the LCS neighborhood.

The outreach team was also busy enrolling community outreach program participants for the upcoming year. Just as LCS receives remarkable interest each

year during its registration for the new *Sizyèm* class, interest in the *Koukouy* program seems to grow each year. Families know that the program not only provides a safe place for their children during the day, but also offers a quality education and formation, preparing children with the goal of entering LCS when they reach *Sizyèm*.

"All of the training and preparation at the school is to help the students become great citizens who will be part of the rebuilding of Haiti," Myriam concluded. "This year we hope that we will be able to be open for the entire year [despite the challenging situation]. This will permit our students to be more prepared for the official exams—and maybe we might even have another national laureate!"

We wish LCS the best during the 2023—2024 school year and look forward to seeing the great things these students will accomplish this year, and beyond!

Step Up, Not Back, For LCS and Haiti

by participating in THP's annual

Back to School Campaign

to support our Louverturians!

For this special online fundraising campaign, we're counting on our community members (that's you!) to spread the word to friends and family to help us raise \$30,000 during the first two weeks in October for LCS students.

Visit the campaign site at thpbacktoschool2023.raisely.com to donate or to receive your own unique fundraising page to share via email, text message, and social media.

Our students are determined to be successful, and through this fundraiser, YOU can help make that happen!

Ensuring a Healthy Campus

by Jimi Grondin (THP Director of New School Construction)

Most people probably remember having to go to the nurse's office after scraping a knee in recess or feeling ill in the middle of a school day. In the U.S., it would be easy to take the presence of a school nurse or physician for granted. Not so in Haiti, where despite a COVID 19-era federal requirement, most schools do not have the ability to provide staff dedicated to their students' medical needs.

Louverture Cleary School, however, is committed to providing not only an excellent academic education, but a safe and healthy campus as well. For nearly 20 years, LCS has had medical professionals regularly available, even residing on campus, for students and staff. Furthermore, every medical staff member has been an LCS alum, which is not surprising when approximately 25 percent of LCS graduates have gone on to study medicine.

And although the medical staff attend to the usual bumps and bruises obtained on the playgrounds, they also add to the sense of security and stability at LCS when life outside its walls is often tumultuous.

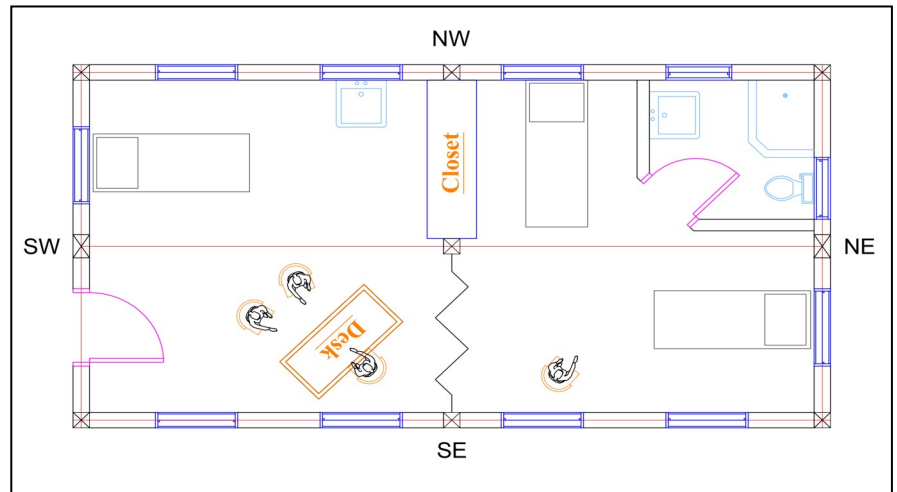
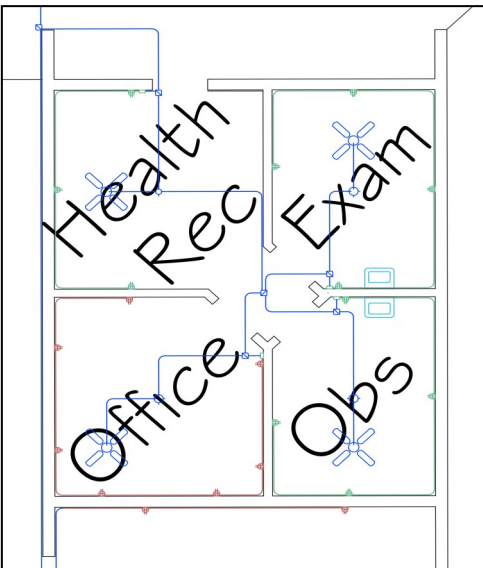
LCS medical staff member Jean-Michel P. (LCS '17), currently in his last year of medical school, is vigilant about students' health so that "they are the best version of themselves for the rebuilding of Haiti." Jean-Michel also recognizes that because LCS is a boarding school, it is important to have residential staff in order to respond to nighttime emergencies. In his words, "I love what I am doing and where I am doing it."

In a few months' time, Jean-Michel and the rest of the community will love the "where" even more. Plans are in the works for a small new building dedicated to serving LCS's medical needs. The infirmary will have space for an office/examination room, two beds for recuperation, and a full bathroom. The staff is also looking

forward to digitizing the students' medical histories to make it easier to support their wellness.

Informed by the experience gained at the flagship LCS campus over nearly four decades, school medical care will evolve with the construction of the Model Campus and the additional campuses that will create the 10-school LCS Network. The main academic building, designed by long-time THP community member and architect Scott Hill, will include a medical suite with a reception room, examination room, observation room, and office.

Although rare in Haiti, one day every school in the LCS Network will have facilities like the ones commonly found in U.S. schools. This normalcy and security will facilitate the wellness of Haiti's youth in both mind and body as they prepare to become the next generation of leaders in their country.



At left: medical suite plans for the LCS Model Campus; Above: plans for a small new building dedicated to serving medical needs at LCS.

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!

The Madeleine: A Shining Example of Community

by Susannah Tombes (THP Advancement Associate)

The Haitian Project is blessed with many wonderful supporting parishes. Among these, The Madeleine Parish in Portland, Oregon, has been a shining example of support and community for over two decades.

Many parishioners from this stalwart group of LCS champions have joined THP mission trips and have supported Louverture Cleary School both financially and on the ground. Some have remained with the Project, serving on THP committees and its board of directors. And some have dedicated years to ensuring the success of an amazing and much-anticipated annual summer event in Portland—the Madeleine Parish Garage Sale (MPGS).

Founded by THP mission tripper Sally Kirchoff, for over two decades this event has brought hundreds of people each year into the parish over the course of a weekend to shop for gently-used goods such as books, toys, clothing, furniture, and electronics.

Integral to the success of the garage sale are the support of The Madeleine's pastor (currently Fr. Bonaventure Rummell), its parishioners, and the people of Portland who are committed to THP's mission of transforming Haiti through Catholic education. People are encouraged to ring a bell when somebody makes an additional donation above what they purchased at the sale—and the bell rings frequently. This past summer marked the most successful MPGS yet, whose crew of hard-working and dedicated volunteers raised over

\$29,000 for THP!

Along with the proceeds of the MPGS, some of the most valuable elements of the sale are outreach and the awareness of THP's work to support a brighter future for Haiti. THP Board Member Dave Albertine (who along with his wife, Peggy, is a leader in the event) remains excited about the sale's ability to spread the word about THP. "People are dedicated to the mission. They know where the money will be used, and they know it will be used well. It spurs everyone on and gives everyone a sense of purpose. It has been institutionalized in the parish."

The Madeline Parish community is not only unique because of the success of this annual mega-sale, but also in its strides to create one of the first official THP Regional Support Groups in the country.

THP Regional Support Groups seek to increase local awareness and support of THP's mission by organizing activities for local individuals, parishes, schools and organizations. The necessity of developing these groups around the country be-



THP Board Member Dave Albertine and THP Associate Director of Advancement Carly McGee at this summer's Madeleine Parish Garage Sale.

came apparent with plans to develop the 10-school LCS Network. Increasing access to a Louverture Cleary education across Haiti will require ever increasing awareness of and support for THP's mission.

Dave noted, "We have been talking about establishing regional support groups for a long time. We're going to start something here. There is a flower growing. There is something taking root in Haiti, especially if we support it. What can we do to get more folks to know about The Haitian Project? I feel confident that regional groups are a good way to spread the message of the Project in a sustainable way. I am hoping our efforts in Portland will spur other efforts around the country."



Shoppers look over treasures at the Madeleine Parish Garage Sale in 2004, an event that has supported and brought awareness to THP's mission for over two decades.

If you would like more information on joining or forming a THP Regional Support Group, please contact development@haitianproject.org.

LCS Alumna Profile

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



LCS Dean of Academics Abbigaëlle S. working with new Sizyèm (7th grade) students during this year's new student orientation program.

When I walked through the school doors in September 2011, I was young, eager for knowledge, and uncertain about the future. At LCS, I forged unbreakable friendships and created lasting memories, engraved in the very depths of my being. The educators and staff of this institution have been my guides; their dedication and passion for the art of teaching made those seven years a memorable experience. Along the way, I acquired profound knowledge of a multitude of disciplines, but my learning was not limited to the confines of these academic walls. I have drawn invaluable lessons from my peers and personal experiences.

My years at LCS were also marked by active involvement in various extracurricular activities, clubs, and community projects. I discovered deep passions and developed my innate talents in the

theatrical spotlight and behind the scenes organizing memorable events. These experiences taught me the importance of team spirit, leadership, and commitment to my community. Thanks to this institution, I'm armed with the skills and knowledge I've acquired and the memories I'll cherish forever, forging my own destiny.

Early in life, I embraced a passion for education and the development of individuals. After graduation, I studied legal sciences at École des Droits et Économiques des Gonaïves and later was awarded a scholarship from the LCS Dulcich Center for Career Advancement to study education sciences at Université Quisqueya while serving as junior staff [in the Junior Staff work study program

for alumni] at LCS.

The same institution that taught me to be the person I am now also allowed me to start working in my dream profession. In September 2022, I started working as the LCS Assistant Dean of Academics. My first responsibility was to participate in ensuring student academic success in collaboration with the Dean of Academics, and also to participate in the management of trimester exams, prepare files for the Ministry of Education, and participate in the registration operations for official examinations and admissions exams.

One of the first lessons I learned in this position was the importance of active listening. I realized that each student has a unique story, specific challenges, and different needs. I really enjoyed witnessing the incredible moments of success of my students. Last

“My constant goal is to create an environment where students can develop their academic and personal skills in a holistic way ... to remain open to changes in the field of education, and to inspire my students more to become autonomous and passionate learners.”

—LCS Dean of Academics
Abbigaëlle S. (LCS '18)

year was a joy and a challenge for me. I wanted to reduce academic failure and struggling, especially in the newest classes. Every evening, I was in Study Hour to motivate them and give them study and learning methods. I also paired the Sizyèm (7th grade) students with tutors from a higher class to accompany them in their work. My constant goal is to create an environment where students can develop their academic and personal skills in a holistic way, to continue to explore new pedagogical methods in order to help learners who are in difficulty, to remain open to changes in the field of education, and to inspire my students more to become autonomous and passionate learners. Seeing them overcome their learning difficulties and make significant progress reminded me of the positive impact of education on lives. Every small step forward of my learners, especially those in Sizyèm who are new to the LCS educational system, is a victory to celebrate.

I am proud to say that at the start of school this year, I became the LCS Dean of Academics. As an educator, I would like to deepen my study in educational sciences by earning my master's degree and then a doctorate. I would also like to study psychology in order to combine the fields and be an educational psychologist. I look forward to acquiring all the necessary knowledge and accomplishing my wishes in future years.

LCS Junior Staff Spotlight

Steve S. (LCS '21)

by HPN Staff

Each day at Louverture Cleary School is made possible by the administration, faculty, staff, and junior staff who work in all of the areas that make the school successful, such as student life, community service and outreach, accounting, maintenance, security, and more. An important aspect within this robust leadership structure is the Junior Staff work-study program for alumni, through which LCS graduates attend university on scholarships from the Dulcich Center for Career Advancement while working at LCS. Members of the Junior Staff program fill important roles such as overseeing the Work Hour and *Netwayaj* (cleanup) programs, assisting in the *Koukouy Sen Klè* (Fireflies of St. Clare) early childhood development program, and supervising and leading extracurriculars. They are recent graduates and therefore excellent role models for the students, especially with regard to living out the Charism (spiritual identity) of the school and its central motto of Matthew 10:8: "What you receive for free, you must give for free."

Haitian Project News recently caught up with Steve S., a second-year Junior Staff member who teaches physical education classes, coaches extracurricular sports, and assists with evening study hour supervision after attending university classes during the day.

HPN: What year did you graduate from LCS? Where are you attending university, and what are you studying?

SS: I graduated in July 2021 and am studying legal science and political science at Université Quisqueya.

HPN: What is a lesson you learned as a student at LCS that you continue to use in your life?

SS: One of the lessons I learned at LCS as a student and that I use in life now is that anything you want someone to do for you, do the same for them. It helps me to make much more effort in the way I treat those around me; what comes out of my mouth in the way I treat people clearly reflects how I want to be treated.



Steve S. (LCS '21) is a member of the LCS Junior Staff work-study program for alumni, through which LCS graduates attend university on scholarships from the Dulcich Center for Career Advancement while working at LCS.

HPN: What do you enjoy doing the most in your role?

SS: My responsibility as a junior staff is first and foremost to contribute greatly to the smooth running and discipline of the community. What I like most about my role is the way the students thrive in the sports activities, and how interested they are in playing at least one sport.

HPN: What are your plans for your future?

SS: My plan for the future is first and foremost continued peace of mind, and for me to be an example to the younger generation and a source of inspiration to those who follow me. One of the things I want is to build a beautiful family and to be fully economically successful.

HPN: What are your hopes for the future of Haiti?

SS: My future plan for Haiti is to see sustainable development and that one of the biggest problems is solved, which is insecurity. I hope to see Haiti become a power on all four sides: economically, diplomatically, politically, and culturally.

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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.

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