



Haitian Project News

The Louverture Cleary Schools Network, Transforming Haiti through Education

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Celebrating the LCS Class of 2021: Facing a Challenging Year with a Louverturian Spirit

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

Each year, members of the Louverture Cleary School *Philo* (U.S. 12th grade +1) class are called to be engaged students, community members, and leaders. During the final of their seven years at LCS, *Philo* students are known as *Guides*, facilitating daily student formation, modeling diligent study and hard work, and exemplifying selfless service in community life. “As a *Guide* at LCS, I have learned a sense of responsibility and leadership that will stay with me after I graduate,” says Alberline Dejardin (LCS ’21). “I will use it to reflect the light of LCS and share what I have learned because I received for free, so I must give for free (Matthew 10:8).”

In the fall of 2020, the role of the *Guides* expanded amid the challenges of ongoing political unrest in Haiti and the continuing global COVID-19 pandemic. Daily activities such as class, meals, and community service now included social distancing, mask wearing, and the enforcement of new hygiene practices necessary in a boarding school commu-

nity. In true Louverturian fashion, the Class of 2021 rose to meet this challenge, providing key support to the LCS Direction led by Head of School Ernst Viel, Director of Academics Marjorie Mombrun (LCS ’07), and Director of Operations Esther Paul (LCS ’02).

“Things were difficult for us students and for the members of the Direction this year,” recalls Lookendy Charles (LCS ’21). “Even if it was difficult to have a normal school year, it was important because students are the future of Haiti. Being at LCS was a sign that the objective to rebuild Haiti had not changed. We still have



Barotie Anasta



Beeverly André-Prémilus



Yvena Beauzil



Makinista Bonhomme



Judith Cadet



Lookendy Dukens Charles



Patrice Charles



Fortune Chéry

(Photos continued on pages 2 & 3)

to work to make Haiti better.”

Despite the loss of some highly anticipated activities like team sports, all-school holiday celebrations, and interaction with the surrounding neighborhood, the class made the best of the opportunities at hand. When soccer was

(Continued on page 2)

A Letter from THP President Reese Grondin on the Assassination of Haiti’s President

Dear THP Community,

The assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse on July 7th weighs heavily on all of us.

The events of this month represent a terribly unfortunate turn of events for the Haitian people and have brought new instability to an already challenging situation.

We pray for the safety and well-being of our friends, colleagues, and students in Haiti, their families, and for all the people of Haiti. We ask for your prayers as well.

Much uncertainty remains in the situation. For now, we are looking ahead to national exams later this month and to the anticipated start of the 2021-22 school year in September.

With the strong and dedicated engagement of our teams in the U.S. and in Haiti, we remain committed to continuing the construction of the Model Campus and the Louverture Cleary Schools Network. It is more important than ever to keep our focus on Haiti’s long-term success.

Throughout The Haitian Project’s 35-year history, what has

(Continued on page 4)

LCS Class of 2021



Yemima Clerveau



Alberline Dejardin



Kimberline Denisca



Erlande Déraïsse



Danaée Donatin



Martine Edouard



Lukensky Elizor



Tessy Scarley
Exantus



De Udler Fonrose



Jean David Guervil



Sley Hortès



Lydia Jean



Mishe-Love Jean



Wilford Jean



Gaelle Joseph



Debora Laguerre



Roxanaïka Angel
Lenord



Emmanuella
Lordéus



Perkens
Louissaint



Louis-Cendeur
Massenard



Luckmael Milfort

not possible during play hour, students organized socially-distanced games while others took the time to immerse themselves in a book. Another popular option was Craft Club, newly organized to provide a creative outlet for students through a variety of media including jewelry making, collage, and pottery.

The Class of 2021 also embraced academics, one of the most consistent elements of the unique year. In an enhanced economics and business curriculum, accounting and finance became part of their lessons through modules developed in partnership with Economic Growth Initiative for Haiti (EGI). With in-person instruction by LCS Economics Department Head Djim Guerrier (LCS '14) and virtual instruction provided by guest lecturers, students eagerly absorbed concepts such as personal finance and managerial accounting, applying them to real life examples and their anticipated future endeavors. The capstone religion course based on Fr. David Knight's *His*

“Even if it was difficult to have a normal school year, it was important because students are the future of Haiti. Being at LCS was a sign that the objective to rebuild Haiti had not changed. We still have to work to make Haiti better.”

—Lookendy Charles (LCS '21)

Way: An Everyday Plan for Following Jesus also reminded Louverturians of their call to rebuild their nation from within as the “leaven in the dough”.

“The LCS experience contributed to the person that I am today,” recalls Melchior Remelien (LCS '21). “One important lesson was the value of community. I learned about the importance this year in *His Way*, but I have experienced it since I entered the school. We need to live for others, to help other people do better. We are better together.”

LCS Head of School Ernst Viel attrib-

utes the student body's perseverance through this difficult period to the leadership of the Class of 2021. “This year will be remembered as one of the most complicated, but from the very start of their leadership seminar at the beginning of the school year, the *Philo* Class was very dedicated. They brought a special touch to community life through their responsibilities like Health Committee, Language Committee, Spiritual Committee, and Craft Club with the objective to maintain the Louverturian heritage in the face of the challenges. The success of this year is thanks to the instrumental contribution of this year's graduating class, and I wish them success on the road of life by continuing to develop the values practiced at LCS.”

Having completed an extraordinarily challenging year and looking ahead toward new challenges in the future, the LCS Class of 2021 is well-equipped with their formation as they go on to university, professional careers, raising families,



Murielle Eunide Moise



Chananteos Parfait



Abrahaam Luvington Pierre



Eunica Stephigraphe Pierre



Guershwin Milenka Pierre



Richardson Mosanto Pierre



Cliff Pierre Louis



Mechior Makéléli Rémilien



Sabienca René



Sherlandine Reynald



Loika Saint Vil



Melissa Saint-Louis



Steve Seïde



Franchesca Semé



Darwin Sénat



Brune Vaëlle Sénatus



Christian St. David



Esther Talleyrand



Carl-Michel Tervilus



Angela Villefranche



Saika Volcy

and more. As her time at LCS comes to a close, Gaelle Joseph (LCS '21) reflects, "This year was the most difficult one. Facing this situation needs a lot of patience and sacrifice. This situation shows me that life is made of bad and good moments, and it is our responsibility to do all that we can to keep going, to keep rising."

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

It was very difficult for us to adapt this year.... However, as Louverturians, we can face any situation in life even if it's difficult. For now, I have many things in mind, but one of my big dreams is to be an engineer; it's how I will help rebuild Haiti.
—**Patrice Charles**

LCS taught me values that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Every single day of the seven years I spent in this community taught me something new. It's not easy to achieve the seven years—

sometimes we fall or might want to give up, but the main thing is to get up and to continue to pursue our dream because at the end of the day we know what we are fighting for.
—**Barotie Anasta**

One thing I learned at LCS that will stay with me after my graduation is from the charism: "What we receive for free, we must give for free" (Matthew 10:8). LCS showed me how to live with others, to help others in need, to have relationships with people that were unknown for me, to share my knowledge. I will use these lessons outside because these are points that will show my community and society that I am different.
—**Danaée Donatin**

I have learned a lot of things at LCS, but the most important thing that I have learned was subsidiarity in our Rheto (U.S. 12th grade) religion class on Catholic Social Teaching. Responsibilities must be shared, everyone in the society will

have responsibility to do something. After graduating, as Louverturians we are all called to be a change in Haiti. A principle like subsidiarity will help me grow more.
—**Carl-Michel Tervilus**

For the future, my plans are to enter a university to learn Economics and find a job to help my family and people around me.... My LCS education will help me in my discipline, my abilities to work hard... whatever difficulties that could appear, I will find a way to succeed in my life because my LCS education is unique.
—**Alberline Dejardin**

LCS taught me many things, but one that impacts my life is living in community. By living in community, we accept others with their bad and their good habits. Sharing love, being the last instead of being the first... wherever I will go, I'm going to treat people the same way they treated me at LCS, with love and compassion.
—**Makinista Bonhomme**

A Letter from Reese Grondin

(Continued from page 1)

always been true in periods of great challenge and instability remains true today: we are part of the solution.

Our mission has always been about building the institutional capacity of the country through the education and formation of civic-minded Haitian leaders committed to building the brighter future we all want for Haiti. This is the path with the most potential to actually move the dial in Haiti.

The recent events have only made our mission more vital.

Certainly, it will be more costly to operate as a result of the disruption in the country and what will be a long path out of the current crisis. And history has shown that circumstances like these will discourage some donors from supporting Haiti—a trend already emerging in the US media.

We remain immensely grateful for your past support and humbly ask you to continue, or even increase, your giving if you are able.

The Haitian Project is the right mission at the right time. Let's keep moving forward, together.

Peace,



Reese Grondin
President, The Haitian Project

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

- **Donate online** at HaitianProject.org where it is easy (and very helpful) to set up a recurring donation
- Make a legacy contribution through **Planned Giving**
- Participate in your employer's **Corporate Matching Gifts Program**
- Give the gift of **Stock or Mutual Funds**
- **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, or contact us at 401-351-3624 or by email at development@haitianproject.org.

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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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