

December 2023 Newsletter Feature

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 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 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



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

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."