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## ST MARC SCHOOL

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- WINTER 2023 -

### St. Marc's Students are Back in the Classrooms

- Unrest in Cap Haitian Area has Calmed -

Although civil unrest and gang violence in Haiti is most intense in the Port-Au-Prince area, it still disrupted the opening of schools in the northern part of the country where St. Marc's school is located. However, in November, St. Marc's was one of the first schools in the area to reopen. The staff and teachers are so grateful to be back in the classroom again. As of January 2023, our student enrollment for the new school year has grown to over 380 students, from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade Thirteen (the final year of secondary education in Haiti). Despite having to catch up for the delayed start, we are hopeful most of the 22 Grade 13 students will graduate this summer.



### Successful Expansion Continues

-Phase One Complete ❖ Phase Two Initiated -

When school reopened in the fall, it was wonderful to have all five classrooms of our Phase I construction completed. Even though our student desks had not arrived yet, due to shipping delays caused by closure of the port during the unrest, Father Leon and our resourceful Haitian staff found tables could work in the interim, as seen in the photo. As all our buildings were due for a repaint, the decision was made to switch from our white and blue color scheme to gray and white to match our new classroom buildings as well as the Phase II buildings that are underway.



### Romeus Walky

College Bound Graduate

Romeus Walky is an exceptional student! He completed his high school education in 2022, as a member of our very first graduating class. He distinguish himself by having the highest test score in his class. Romeus had been a student at our school for six years and is now studying computer science at a Haitian University with plans to be a telecommunication specialist. He is the oldest of four children in a single parent household. His brother and two sisters also attend St. Marc school.



### More Student Opportunities with Growth

#### Phase II Moving Forward



locally, assuring jobs and money stay in the Haitian economy.

This phase, which will complete our educational facilities, will include four classrooms for our high school (secondary), plus a library/computer lab. It will also include a six classroom trade school, an additional restroom building/sanitation block, and a location for our newly expanded and upgraded solar power generating system.

After months of delay, due to unrest and unavailability of gasoline, we were delighted to learn the contractor arrived on site in early January and began work on our next phase. Board members, Steve Favory, and Ernest Dwight spent two days on site later that month, and saw foundations completed and walls going up. Food For the Poor ([www.foodfortheppoor.org](http://www.foodfortheppoor.org)), acting as our construction administrator and supervisor, hires Haitian firms and sources building materials



Ernest & Alex Jean, FFTP Engineer & Project Manager

#### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - FELIX ESTERLINE

- ◆ Felix is 15 years old and is in the 10th grade
- ◆ She lives in a rural village with her aunt, brother and three sisters.
- ◆ Her family home has no running water or electricity.
- ◆ Felix is grateful for the meal served at school.
- ◆ She would like to be a nurse one day.



## Healthy Students Are Better Learners

### - Hen House and Tilapia Pond -

A well fed student is better prepared for a successful academic day. Each day our students get a healthy hot lunch from the rice-based meal packs we ship to Haiti, which are supplemented with protein from the 200 eggs per day coming from our enlarged hen house. Our staff member, Mourice does an excellent job of managing our chicken operation as well as our tilapia pond, which is harvested twice a month, so the lunches occasionally contain fresh fish. Due to the extreme poverty of many of our families, the school lunch may be the student's only meal of the day.

Our plan is to add agriculture as a learning opportunity in our new trade school, with the hope of also growing vegetables, which can be added to the lunch menu.



## Successful Sewing

### A Trade to Feed a Family

The first occupation featured in our new trade school is sewing. Although our building isn't yet available, we were able to find and purchase four sewing machines in Haiti, and we hired an experienced instructor. Our first students are actually parents of some of our students, and they are eager to learn a trade that can produce income.

During the Haitian unrest, shipping container space and priority has been limited to food and medical needs but as things return to normal, we look forward to adding at least another dozen sewing machines so we can teach more students and parents.



### HAITI INTERESTING FACTS

- ✦ Haiti is still suffering the impact of the 2010 earthquake, the deadliest one in the world in the last 75 years. Estimates are that over 300,000 died and over 1,250,000 people were left homeless.
- ✦ One in sixteen children die before the age of six.
- ✦ Less than 5% of the population lives to the age of 65.



**Hands for Haiti**  
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**Founders and Operators  
of St. Marc School**

**Thank you for making a  
difference in the lives of the  
children of Haiti!**



[www.handsforhaiti.org](http://www.handsforhaiti.org)