



LA GONÂVE
= HAITI =
PARTNERS

Excellence in Education

Monthly Newsletter September 2025

Education is evidence of hope – an opportunity to develop human capability and a better future. The St. Francis Parish school system has grown from a few rural buildings to a sprawling 11-school system with one central vision: attempt excellence in everything. Last week, ninth graders at both Parish middle schools received their national exam test results-100% of them passed. 27 students from St. Marthe & Marie, and 48 from St. Francis now hold a diploma certifying their attainment of the Fundamental level of education. What a success!



First graduating class of St. Marthe & Marie



Class in session!



The main classroom building

The class of 2025 were the first ninth graders at St. M & M middle school; these students began as the first seventh graders in 2022 when the campus opened. In October 2025, an IT center and library building will be opened to round out a first-class education. The central location of Palma makes it possible for children from many communities to complete their Fundamental education from home.



Solar inverters in the library/computer room will power new laptops!

The school was designed by Mr. Pechely Sybrun, an engineer who attended school in neighboring Ti Cotelette and at St. Francis; in 1988 there was no middle or high school so he left La Gonave to complete his fundamental and high school studies on the mainland; today there are ample opportunities at home. Last week, solar panels were installed at the school he built to power the kitchen and IT classroom. Look what 35 years of partnership have accomplished!



Study hall in the St. Francis campus Library



Adult Literacy Class at St. Francis

Community-based adult literacy classes teach basic reading and writing skills. These students are better able to manage bills, legal documents, and their household because of this amazing program.

In addition to 2 middle schools, the parish provides 10 primary schools and one high school that in total enroll over 2,300 students. This is an exciting achievement, as there was not always a strong network of schools on the island. National schools are available on La Gonâve, but they are poorly funded and teachers are not paid well. As a result, the quality of education is neglected and students have poor outcomes. The presence of the St. Francis school system is a lifeline for kids on the island.



Pre-schoolers on Flag Day

The US and Haitian partners of La Gonâve Haiti Partners have always identified the development of high quality schools as a collective priority. Teacher salaries, school supplies, and school lunches are paid for by the partnership; this long-term investment has resulted in a school system of academic excellence and success.

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