

The 2025-26 school year began on Tuesday, October 7th. St. Francis' 11 schools are bustling with excited students. During this time, we look ahead to what the new academic year will bring and imagine the future of education on La Gonâve.



In 2024, US partners provided for preschool chairs to be made in Bainet, a city in the southern mainland. Due to security issues, the finished chairs were unable to be moved to a port. Just before this school year started, the chairs could finally be trucked from Bainet to the port in Miragoane, then sailed from Miragoane to Point-à-Raquette on La Gonâve. Père Vil and his staff drove across the island to pick them up. Currently, people use Point-à-Raquette for boat travel to access the safer ports of the southwestern mainland. The people of La Gonâve must constantly adapt to the shifting security landscape.



Chairs arriving in the port at Point-à-Raquette

The parish was also able to ship solar panels, batteries, and other important accessories. Batteries and solar panels will power the two computer labs located at St. Francis and Palma. This gives us all hope there there will be improved access to supplies from the mainland, making life on La Gonâve easier.

Teacher Training!

In August, teacher training was hosted for three nights in Palma. Expert teachers from the mainland traveled to La Gonâve to lead this workshop. Primary school teachers and principals attended 2 full days of training to practice their teaching skills.



Pre-K teachers!

During the opening evening, teachers had a welcome dinner and spent time with each other. Music students provided entertainment throughout the weekend and received some extra music lessons while they were there.

This was a wonderful time for teachers to work on their lesson plans for the year, share tips with each other, and celebrate just how important the work that they do is.



Training was hosted in the library computer lab building at St. Marthe & St. Marie in Palma



Violin students at teacher training

With all the good that is happening in the St. Francis school system, there are so many reasons to be hopeful. Investments into education today create the future leaders of Haiti. We love seeing these students contribute the knowledge, creativity and values that they learn in these great schools to better their world.

If you would like to see weekly updates about La Gonâve, follow us on Instagram or Facebook by clicking the links below!