

Hearts with Haiti



Spring 2022 Newsletter



www.heartswithhaiti.org

Educating Haiti's future

In 2005, shortly after Trinity House opened its new facility in Jacmel, one of the leaders noticed neighborhood children playing on the street in front of the home during the day. These children were not able to go to school because their parents couldn't afford tuition. Instead, they spent their days without any supervision or direction, and were missing the opportunity to learn and improve their chances of breaking the cycle of poverty. With the boys of Trinity House at school during the day, the building was empty, so the leaders started inviting these children in to learn basic skills and to give them a safe place to go during the day.

Within a year, this impromptu program started formal classes for kindergarten through third grade. Another year later, plans began for classrooms on the second floor of Trinity House. Each year after more students, more teachers, more classes, more programs were added.

What had started as a drop-in day program for the poorest children in the neighborhood became Lekòl Sen Trinite (LST), a state-certified school.

LST has always been a tuition-free school, aimed at giving the children in the poorest families in Jacmel a chance at a quality education. Not only is the school tuition-free, but the students are also provided books and school supplies by our generous donors. They are fed a hot meal every day. For some of the students this is the only meal they will eat in a day.

Recognizing the special challenges girls face receiving an education in Haiti, LST has two sessions of classes. The morning session for pre-school/kindergarten through eighth grade is co-educational. The afternoon session is girls-only for first through third grades.

With the help of a visitor several years ago,

LST became the first, and only, Montessori school in Jacmel. The preschool/kindergarten classes are operated using the Montessori method. It is a three-year program.

Besides the normal academic classes, students at LST are educated in the arts (dance, drumming, music, drawing/painting) thanks to a partnership formed with Broadway for Arts Education (formerly Broadway's Babies) in 2017. After school activities include karate, cooking class and tutoring.

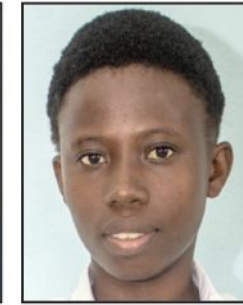
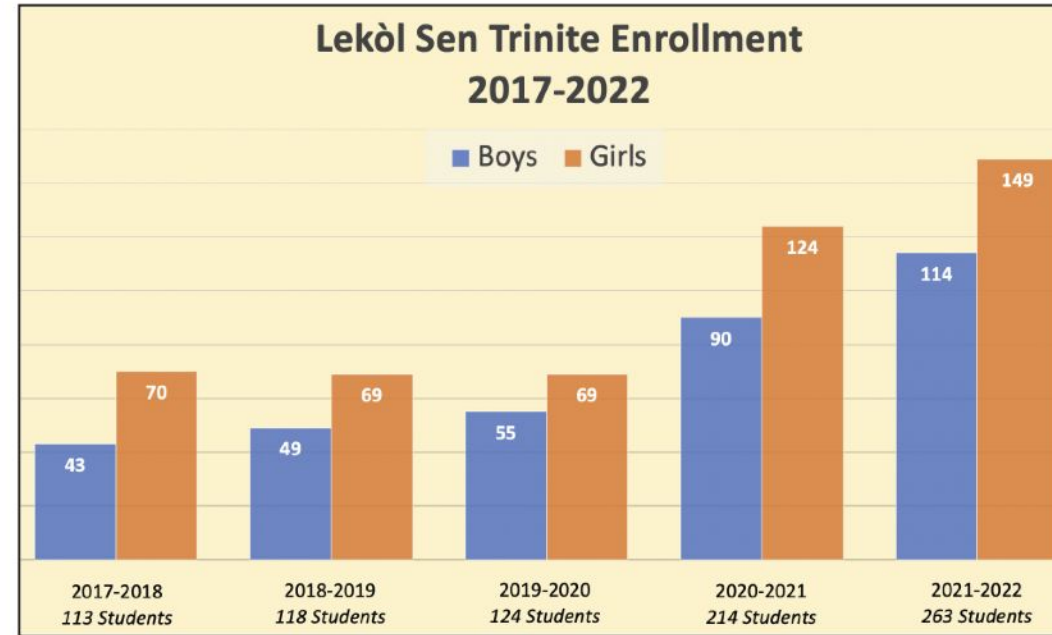
The families of the students are helped as possible. This has been an important ministry in the past two years. LST provided hand-washing stations and masks to the families during the COVID-19 crisis. Special food distributions have been given to the families during times of extreme economic crises.

Because of additional classes, and rising needs, the enrollment at LST has steadily grown over the years. The biggest jump came in the 2020-2021 school year when the dual challenges of COVID and an ever-worsening political and economic crises in Haiti led to a much greater need. In the current school year, the enrollment is 263 students from preschool/kindergarten to eighth grade.

Over the past two years LST has added a middle school. Seventh grade was added in 2020. Eighth grade was added this year. The final addition will be ninth grade next year.

Hearts with Haiti (HWH) is proud to be a supporting partner to the wonderful ministry at LST. HWH has provided funding for building projects and special projects, and also provides monthly funding to support the general operations at the school, all thanks to our generous and caring donors.

Lekòl Sen Trinite by the numbers



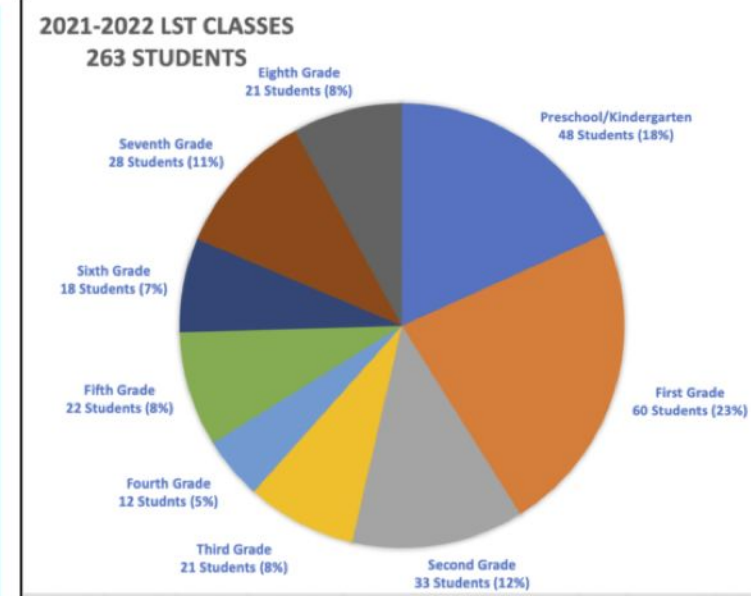
The current longest attending student at LST is Floride Pierre. She started as a kindergartner in 2008 and is a seventh-grader in the 2021-2022 school year.

The youngest student at LST for the 2021-2022 school year is preschooler Ralph Naica Chéry, who is 3-years-old. The oldest student is eighth-grader Alexia Jasmin, who is 19-years-old.



For the 2020-2021 session, the pass rate for 1st to 7th grade students was **68%**

The 2006-2007 school year was the first year of formal classes, with 25 students in kindergarten through third grade.



2005 Informal drop-in sessions start



2007 School construction starts



2009 School construction finishes

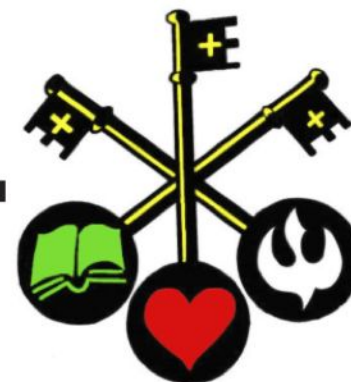
2006 Kindergarten to 3rd grade classes start



2010 Classes meet outside after earthquake



2012-2013 Sixth grade added First graduating class



2017 Arts classes start with Broadway for Arts Education



2019 Construction of new classrooms start

2020-2021 ~ 7th grade added 2021-2022 ~ 8th grade added



2022-2023 9th grade will be added

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for the young people
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Improving lives and facilities at Wings of Hope

The first three months of the year have been busy ones at Wings of Hope. They have been filled with projects to improve the lives of the residents, upgrade the facilities, more hands-on learning, and celebrations.

Thanks to a grant from one of Hearts with Haiti's church partners, all of the Wings residents completed their annual medical check-ups and received all necessary follow-up treatments. For the most part, everyone's health is good.

The same church also gave funds

to paint the interior of all the rooms, for the first time since the residents moved into the facility in late 2015; and to repair the chicken coops.

With an eye on the new growing season, the Wings residents planted the first crops of 2022 in the raised garden beds.

The Wings residents and staff celebrated the 34th anniversary of the St. Joseph Family in late January. They celebrated again in late February with the annual Wings of Hope Carnival.

