



## SAINT GABRIEL SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

June 17, 2020 [edited May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by Jacqueline Vontersch]

The story started when the St. Gabriel [SG] parish community needed to build a Catholic middle and high school in Lascahobas, Haiti to make higher education available and safe to the students. A generous parishioner at SG donated a piece of land to build the school and the campus. Foundations were laid March 1, 2010, just a few weeks after the January 10, 2010, earthquake. After the tragic seism, the community needed a project to bring them together in hope. This was that project. The school, currently serving first Grade through 13<sup>th</sup> Grade, opened in September 2012. Each year, a grade was added to the lower and upper schools.

In 2020, to draw enrollment and improve education and safety, the pastor at SG wished to utilize the current space in front of the school to build a playground. His goal was to educate the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, and physically. One study, published by the National Library of Medicine, shows how students who are involved in outdoor activities are healthier and can do better in school. Outdoor athletics keep students in school with good health while improving their ability to focus on academics. The high school students use it to play soccer, volleyball, and basketball; lower and middle school students will use it as a playground.

### THIS FACILITY PROVIDES:

- PE curriculum development
- *A safe place to play*
- Physical and social development
- Sport competitions and teamwork
- Well-being and health
- Self-respect and discipline
- Healthy and constructive community

### BASIC DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

- Clear the area of rocks and dirt *DONE*
- Level ground and a small hill *DONE*
- Build a wall of retention *DONE*
- Lay a foundation *DONE*
- Concrete surfacing *DONE sept. 2021*
- Bleachers on one side facing the school *UPCOMING*



The pastor at SG raised 10% of the needed funds through tuition. Similarly, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) participated in some of the work, logistics, clean-up, and provisions of food and water. Sacred Heart contributed funds from its St. Gabriel Building and Outfitting Fund. The school is responsible for maintaining the playground. This project had a timeline of the work, provided updates and pictures of the progress made. Students and teachers wrote short reflections on the playground's merit. This encouraged them to take ownership of their new playground.



If you wish to assist Fr. Fitho JEAN with outfitting this playground with equipment, please address your check to Sacred Heart Church and add *St. Gabriel Building and Outfitting Fund* on the memo line. Please write your check to Sacred Heart Church and add “*St. Gabriel Building Fund*” on the memo line. For online giving, go to [donate](#), scroll down to Haiti: Building, and indicate the amount.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated. Special thanks in advance to the parishioners and friends who have and will support this project. Together we continue praying for our Family at home and in Haiti. Pictures before 2021 and after 2021.

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