

The School of Choice / L'Ecole de Choix
*Funding a Sustained Future
for Haiti's Learners & Leaders*



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Education is the most **sustainable** contribution any of us can make toward improving the quality of the lives of people in poverty.

L'ECOLE DE CHOIX

When people think of Haiti, some may think about poverty, food insecurity, illiteracy. Other thoughts might wander to the devastation and sadness of Haiti's 2010 earthquake. People typically do not think about **high-quality, community-engaged, transformational education**.

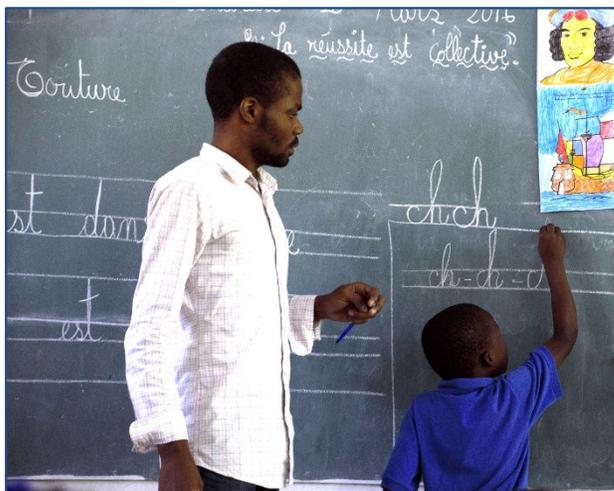
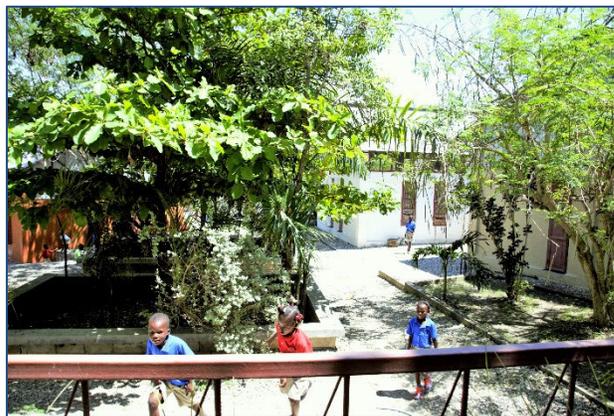
What is The School of Choice?

Choix is a progressive education program in Haiti that joins academic excellence with leadership development for children living in extreme conditions of poverty to prepare them to lead their communities, their country and the world.

Choix's university-educated and certified faculty educate our students in grades 1st through 6th, and also offer after-school support for our graduates as they continue their education in middle school and high school, totaling nearly 300 children.

Our Mission: *To partner with Haitians to develop and educate Haitian youth to lead their communities, Haiti and the world.*

Our educational approach emphasizes leadership development, gender neutrality, and equal opportunity, and equips Haitian youth with critical thinking skills necessary for success. We define success by our students' development of their own voices and identities, and their ability to make educated and informed decisions about their lives, hopefully impacting the development of Haiti's economy for tomorrow. Choix also strengthens Haiti's current economy by paying fair wages to its 99 percent Haitian staff and by closely collaborating with our community members.



Choix offers high quality education for children living in extreme conditions of poverty in Haiti focusing on leadership development, and honoring Haiti's strong values of liberty and dignity.

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. “

Nelson Mandela

Our Campus and Programs

The three-acre campus opened in the fall of 2011 to girls and boys ages six to seventeen, consisting of an intentionally equal gender ratio. Students are taught in Creole, French and English, empowering them to pursue their education and to succeed, both within Haiti and on the global stage. Choix maintains class sizes between 20 and 30 students in order to prevent the overcrowding endemic to Haiti’s schools. With an assistant teacher in each Choix classroom, the teacher-student ratio is approximately 15:1. The campus consists of ten hurricane resistant buildings, including eight classrooms, a computer lab, library, nurse’s office, kitchen, dining hall, water purification system and playground, among other resources. It also features athletic facilities; and its competitive track and field team is one of the highest ranked teams in the country.



WHY CHOIX?

Our unique program:

- Was established in 2011 through close collaboration with its local community, and continues to pay a living wage to its 99% Haitian staff of 40+ men and women.
- Empowers almost 300 boys & girls, including 1st – 6th grade and grads through high school in after-school programs.
- Focuses on leadership development and maintains a trilingual curriculum (Kréyol, French, English).
- Honors Haiti’s strong values of liberty and dignity.



L'Ecole de Choix A compelling success story.

We value the whole student. At Choix, we strive for academic achievement, while we also honor the whole student, both inside and outside the classroom.

- ✓ **Campus Culture:** A unwavering commitment to gender equity in our campus culture, student body and employment opportunities.
- ✓ **Academic progress:** *Measurable* year-over-year improvement in academic achievements.
- ✓ **Athletic achievements:** Our nationally-ranked co-ed athletics program, including students who have qualified for the Junior Olympics and international competition
- ✓ **Extracurriculars:** A variety of extracurricular activities to engage our students, including dance classes and a tournament-ranked chess club.
- ✓ **Safety and security:** Full preparation for natural challenges present in Haiti through earthquake, fire and other security drills for our students, faculty and entire community.

We value our faculty. Choix offers its students a faculty with university degrees and teaching certificates, while teachers throughout the rest of rural Haiti often have only a 6th grade education and, on average, a 9th grade degree.

- ✓ **Professional development:** Ongoing development opportunities for faculty, allowing them to better engage students and families.
- ✓ **Rich learning environments:** Faculty commitment to innovative methods of teaching, learning and capacity-building, including the smart integration of technology into our curriculum and approaches.

We value our Choix community. In order to provide a high-quality learning experience, we have collaborative, respectful and engaging partnerships with our Choix stakeholders, including parents, our local community, local suppliers, healthcare providers, local and global partner non-profits, our contributors, and others.

- ✓ **Parent engagement:** Exceptionally committed parents who actively contribute to our Volunteer Parent Committee and at our regularly scheduled Parent Meetings.
- ✓ **Healthcare:** A full-time onsite Registered Nurse, who helps to manage the health of our students and staff.



“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. “

John Dewey

Haiti holds a profound place in the history of liberty



WHY HAITI?

Haiti is the first and only republic of people of color to have led a successful revolution against its oppressors (1804) and maintained its freedom ever since. This proud legacy—of self-governance and equality—is worth protecting.

Through education, students gain an opportunity to pursue a pathway out of poverty for themselves, their families and their communities, leading Haiti into a brighter future.



INVEST IN CHOIX. INVEST IN HAITI.

By investing in Choix, you not only **transform the lives of children** who otherwise would be likely confined to a future of illiteracy and poverty, you also help to **transform communities**.

Quality education facilitated by university-educated and certified teachers—such as that offered by Choix—will equip Haitian youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to support the infrastructure, the economic development, the labor force and the entrepreneurial environment that are necessary for economic growth.



We live our values in all



CHOIX TOMORROW



OUR GRADUATES SUCCEED!

They have achieved top spots at other institutions and regularly return to Choix – they counsel students, add to their own studies, join in our athletics, and more.

Alumni Scholarships

As many as 95 percent of our students are unable to continue their education beyond Choix’s 6th grade if they do not have financial assistance.

Since a large number of our current alumni students are female, the impact of these economic constraints would disproportionately impact girls more significantly than boys.

While these same graduates often are the most educated in their families, without a viable path to continued schooling, they can be forced into situations where they must be wage earners for their families through various forms of labor as soon as they graduate. Choix's high-quality elementary education already has made each of our alumni more educated than the average Haitian, who has less than 5 years of schooling.

Choix’s scholarship program provide funds to cover the cost of tuition, uniforms and books for Choix alumni as they enter into local middle schools. We pay these scholarship funds directly to each student’s school, tailor, and book supplier. As a condition of our scholarships, our alumni return to Choix in the afternoons where they continue to participate in our community development activities in leadership roles, mentor younger students, receive tutoring themselves and participate in after-school extracurriculars like athletics. In this way, they and their families remain an integral part of our Choix community!

“Without some goals and some efforts to reach them, no [person] can live.”

John Dewey



“Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another.”

John Dewey



Contact Information.

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