

Interviews with two St. Patrick teachers, March 2024

Interviews conducted by Yuri Napoleon, translated by Linda Thisted

Carline Milien



In many countries, education is of capital importance. In Haiti, more precisely at the St Patrick school in Belloc, it is no different. Teachers are proud of their profession and do it for love. Carline Milien exemplifies this pride.

With a vivacious spirit, Carline Milien, mother of two children, is proud to be a teacher. She studied at CFJE (Centre de Formation de Jardinier d'Enfant) and is now the principal pre-K teacher at St. Patrick school. Teaching is her passion. "This job is a passion for me; every time I present myself in a classroom at St Patrick, being able to

give the children the food of education, I am more than happy".

Aware of the importance of education, she never stops giving up despite the distance she must travel to come to work. "I spend about 3 hours on public transportation; it's a long journey from the commune of Gréssier to Belloc; it's a huge sacrifice. (Gréssier is at sea level, near the town of Leogane.) I'm doing it for the well-being of my country because Haiti needs educated citizens to develop the country."

The fifty-year-old, who has worked at St. Patrick school for 6 years, lets herself be guided by passion; she becomes a second mother for her students. "I feel a certain pride in participating in the training of these children and I will be even more proud when I see their progress in 10 more years."

Marvens Durandisse



The 26 year old grew up in Belloc, and has been teaching the 5th grade class for 5 years. He studied Classroom Management in a vocational school at Carrefour. (Carrefour is a suburb of Port-au-Prince.) He does not hide his primary motivation, which is to help the children in his community. "Having a piece of chalk in my hand while standing in front of a classroom at St Patrick is already a source of motivation and I am more than proud." Despite his young age, his passion for teaching

only increases, as the number of classes at St Patrick has grown to include pre-K through the 9th grade. He would like to see more grades at the school. "I will be very happy if I see one day that students will be able to finish their high school studies at Belloc without risking going elsewhere."

Because of their passion and love of the teaching profession, the teachers at St. Patrick think that we must take initiatives to facilitate their work and the development of students, such as a library and new classrooms.