

COMPUTER LAB EXTENSION /DESKTOP DONATION

Despite the great efforts of some organizations to help developing countries enhance their education system by integrating Information technology and Communication in their education, In Haiti more than 50 % of schools, children currently graduate from high school system (state or private schools) without ever having seen or touched a computer in the classroom.

In some regions, the average number of computers is about one per school and where one is available it is generally used for administrative rather than educational purposes.

This situation is being addressed by some private educational institutions, the National Education Ministry and some non-profit organizations involved in the education. The main objective is to fully integrate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools in order to extend computer literacy and enhance the learning/teaching process.

CURRENT SITUATION AT INSITUATION EDUCATIVE EXCELLENCE DE MONTROUIS (IEEM)

We understand the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), mostly how it can help to improve the quality of education and enhance the learning/teaching experience.

Thanks to a local donor that believes in our work, we were granted a 15 desktops computer donation. Our IT Assistant built and installed a small lab with these fifteen desktop computers. Now, some of our students are being taught some basic computer skills and are able to use the lab to do research and homework that requires extra research.

However our goal is to extend the computer lab from 15 workstations to 40, spread the computer literacy and provide basic Information technology (IT) training to every child in the high school.

THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

- Extension of the computer lab by increasing the number of computers from 15 to 40 workstations, 25 new desktop computers.
- Network all 40 computers.
- Hook up all computers to the internet to promote research and communication
- Integrate subjects to ICT and potential vocational training
- Mount an upgraded computer literacy program for teachers and eventually staff members.

OUR OBJECTIVES

The school Administration aims to provide an environment conducive to positive technology-based learning atmosphere that fosters a good culture of teaching and learning and progressively maximize the quality of Education within the school.

- Provide computer access and training to LCM high school students
- Provide internet access for homework and research
- Teach students basics of Windows operating system (windows environment, multimedia, file management, basic troubleshooting skills)
- Teach proficiency in Microsoft suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access ...)
- Teach students internet and Web basics skills (web browsing, internet research, emails, social media ...)
- Teach student typing techniques
- Provide the opportunity through projects initiated by classroom teachers for students to practice these skills and become proficient in the use of computer programs.

TARGET GROUP

This computer lab project will benefit all the students within the school. However the direct beneficiaries of that computer lab would be primarily the students ranging from 10th to 13th grades, the prospective students of the post-secondary online program (e-learning program) then the high school teachers and staff members.

COMPUTER LAB INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSE

There is a need for an ICT-led curriculum process with the potential of transforming the school into information-rich, knowledge-based and technology driven institution. The Haiti National Education Ministry representatives released a revamped high school curriculum that requires a full integration of ICT in the teaching/learning process. Sooner or later, all high school will have to migrate and use that new curriculum.

- ✓ This computer lab upon completion will help prepare the ground for a smooth transition when it's time to migrate to the new high school curriculum.
- ✓ It will equip the school with a 40 computer-lab with reliable internet connection, which will give those impoverished children from this poor community to learn basic computer skills and have access to internet. As a result, they will have a serious advantage in school and in the job market beyond.
- ✓ It will enable our students to better complete their homework assignments that require internet access, gain valuable software skills and research about topic of their interest etc.

MATERIEL FOR THE LAB/DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS

Despite the fact that desktop computers are more cumbersome, consume more energy and occupy more space, we decided on using desktop computers for the following reasons.

- ✓ Desktop computers are more robust
- ✓ Desktop computers are significantly cheaper
- ✓ It is more secure because it's more difficult to remove
- ✓ Desktop computers are easier to upgrade and service is usually completed on-site and my chosen desktops are compatible with my schools existing technology.

Of course we will surely need other items to put the computer lab in place and make sure it's up and running, such as cables, switches, computer tables, outlets and Smartboard with integrated LCD.

DESKTOP SPECTRUM/ COMPUTER MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS

Desktop Computer	The kind of computer for the lab
Monitor	24 inch LCD, 1080p
Operating System	Windows 7/8.1, 64-bit, Home Premium or higher, fully updated with firewall enabled
Processor/CPU	1.6 GHz Core i3-4170
RAM	4GB DDR3
Hard Drive	500 GB SATA
Networking Hardware	10/100/1000 Ethernet adapter
Software	Microsoft Office Suite, Anti-virus
Estimation	\$ 450 USD

Having this forty-computer-lab at the school is a good investment in the kids' education. I am sure, by investing in the education and development of these impoverished children, we not only prevent them from being marginalized and becoming victims of exploitation, but also free them to succeed, break the chain of poverty, and change the future for their families, their children and beyond. We shall appreciate your kind support and cooperation in the growth of this Organization. Looking forward for opportunities to work with you and fulfill the noble cause you are committed for.

Thank you!