

Jardin de Gracia



-Sixth graders in class



↑ Teachers take a break from painting classrooms before school starts



← Sarai leads our first parent meeting of the year



Back to School 2018

As I write this article, we are back in the swing of 2018. We have hosted a couple of teams & we have lots more fun to happen that we are looking forward to.

We call ourselves a GE school. GE stands for Great Expectations. It is a popular classroom management and school wide buy-in program that the Oklahoma school system uses and that we have adapted to our culture and needs here in Honduras. When you visit our campus you'll notice that things run pretty smoothly, there are rhythms that we follow, we do a lot of cheering and encouraging around here. One way we have adapted this program is by taking the last core statement and twisting it to fit a Christian school. The last statement reads: We will practice virtuous living, using the Life Principles. We have scheduled each month to focus on a Fruit of the Spirit and we are fitting

our Life Principles around those Fruits (Love, Joy, Peace...). Therefore, our first month (February) was the month of love and we chose friendship and sincerity. Each Life Principle in the Public school will have a definition, a quote, and a fable that ties it in to real life. We do the same but we add a Bible verse that the children can memorize together. In this way we are planting the word in their hearts in a very tangible way. All Friday devotionals follow the theme of that week's life principle and the songs we sing will tie into the principle or fruit as well. We've loved GE and our new teachers are learning quickly what it means to be a GE teacher. It has really changed our little school for the better. If you are interested in coming on a GE trip or would like to know more about GE, contact us! We love to talk about what we love to do! Please join us in praying for this to be an amazing school year!



New shoes!



Playing marbles at recess



Breakfast is so important



This third grader sells in the market when there are no classes



The boy who called wolf skit on Friday

South Campus

Almost 20 years ago the idea of Jardin de Gracia moved from someone's dreams to a coffee farm in El Socorro, Honduras. This dream became a mission of discipleship that is Jardin de Gracia. **We help low-income children in the village of El Socorro, Villa Alicia, and Aguas del Padre by feeding minds, bodies and souls. We believe that through Christian education students will become responsible adults, conscious citizens and faithful servants of Jesus Christ.** We have seen on many different occasions and in many different ways that a Honduran national, born and raised in this village, has more influence on the local culture than any North American. We know now is the time to further the impact our alumni have on their community. We will do this by continuing the education of the youth that we have already invested so much in. We will expand the school to include 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. In November of 2017 we had our 10th sixth grade graduation, and we hope it will be our last. On January 16th, 2016 our board unanimously voted to do this so our students will be able to complete their general education and continue their discipleship training within the walls of Jardin de Gracia. We broke ground this year on the South Campus and hope to start our first class in February 2019. We will no longer have sixth grade graduation we will now have ninth grade graduations.

The new building will be the focus of every work team that comes down over the next couple of years. We will be developing and constructing the new school on the land the school already has access to just to the south of where the current school sits. It will be a two story building with seven classrooms. On the first floor there will be four classrooms as well as an office with a reception area, teachers' lounge, principal's office, and a store room. On the second floor there will be three more classrooms and a cafeteria with a small kitchen where lunches can be prepared. In addition to this there will be room for our dental office. It will have three operatory suites, a reception area and a room to sterilize all the tools needed to do dental work. The South Campus, as we are starting to call it, will not only be big enough for us to continue the youth's education, but will give us room to grow and enrich this education in the future.

The list of things we will need to accomplish this is short: prayers, work teams, and cold hard cash. Your prayers are the most important. We see in the Bible that prayers are used to tear down walls and to remove obstacles, and this is exactly what we are asking you to pray about. There is a lot of paperwork involved in adding the next level of education. So, I ask that you pray for the people that we will encounter while seeking this accreditation. As well, we're seeking work teams to come and help build the walls for the new buildings. The school's current budget is sufficient to start this project; however our goal is \$250,000; this will complete the expansion without neglecting, borrowing, or robbing funds from the school. This will also give us enough money to open and operate the school while we find a new and long term sponsors to partner with us.

This is a big project and there is room for all who want to help. The new building will be the school's main focus over the next couple of years. We are excited to start the next chapter of Jardin de Gracia and look forward meeting the people that God will place in it. Please let us know any if there is an area that you feel lead to fulfill. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at info@jardindegracia.com or look us up on Facebook.

This set of pictures shows the progression as of March 12, 2018. The septic tank is finished and the workers are beginning excavation of the land to put up the first retaining wall.



Contact us: info@jardindegracia.com • (918) 960-9353

Mail: Jardin de Gracia • 7100 W. Elizabeth St. • Columbia, MO • 65202