

Jardin de Gracia



1. school supplies
2. Meet the teacher day parent meeting
3. New Seventh grade classroom!
4. New shiny shoes compared to last years shoes

Back to School 2019

This has been an exciting return to classes for Jardin de Gracia! It seems that we have finally figured out how to have all our supplies ready at the beginning of the year!

We buy all our supplies including shoes, locally. Not only does this ensure that we have supplies when we need them but it helps the local economy as well. We even found a school mom that will make skirts for the middle school girls next year.

We started this year with a full team of teachers! Two of our teachers are brand new & we think they're going to be a valuable addition to our team. Fourth & Fifth grades have been hard to staff in the last couple of years. If you could say a prayer for our teachers, they are emptying themselves out everyday for the children and families that we serve. It's been so cool to watch them grow & mature in their faith and professionally.

Our kitchen staff of Mayra & Alba are working well together and with the parents. Each family is required to give of

their time to help the school go. They normally work in the kitchen, cooking lunch and cleaning the buildings at the end of the day. Mayra does a devotional with the moms every morning and it has been rewarding to see some of the moms that were struggling a few years ago, step up and lead devotionals or pray in public. Working with the parents is a beautiful side blessing.

Parents are also invited once a month to the field for a community field day. The moms sell snacks and everyone is encouraged to help the teachers rotate through games. It has been a joy to see the amount of parent participation grow! Please keep these parents in your prayers too. They are trying their very best to be good moms & dads.

We're off to an amazing start! More than anything, we would love to see you in Honduras this year! If you're even slightly interested, check out our information on the next page & contact us. Then we can show you what we're up to and you'll have a close up view of what's happening.



Josue is a new kindergartener

Sack races during PE!

Candyland at recess is so fun!

Seventh grade girls in their new uniforms

Second grader Katherine coming into class on the first day of school

We Just Lack Finishing Up

As we reported last time, on the 22nd of December we poured the floor on the second level of the new school. It was done in the same manner as you have read about in the past. We handled the materials, the lunch prep, organization of the work day, and the dads showed up to do the heavy lifting. They mixed even more concrete than the time before when we did the first floor. This was a milestone as we needed this as the roof of the first level. Putting the second floor on opened up the possibility to start making one of the rooms a classroom. We finished right before Christmas, giving everyone a chance to rest. After the holidays, the daily work crew came back and worked even harder.

The crew worked tirelessly for the next month, sometimes into the night. They smoothed the walls with a concrete product that is similar to adobe. They laid tile on the floors and on the walls in the bathroom. They installed the toilet and the sink connecting it to the septic system. The electrician came and wired up the light, outlets, and ceiling fans. The carpenter installed the doorframes, the doors and the trim. We installed the dry eraser board and placed furniture that had arrived on the container. It came together remarkably fast and we were only one day late. The first day of school, which was more of a back to school day, was held in the library.

We handed out shoes, school supplies, and new skirts for the girls. When the teacher was finished with his portion of the meet and greet they all went to the south campus and took a tour. There were lots of smiles, oohs and aahs as the new 7th graders and their parents entered the room that afternoon. Even though the school wasn't finished you could see the pride on their faces. You could see the value in their eyes, for education, that we strive so hard to produce. Monday, February 4, 2019, the first real day of class, all seventh grade students were in their seats in the new building.

We didn't stop work there, nor have we yet. After the first of the year we received an influx of funds for the new school. I told the foreman to hire a couple extra guys and get rolling. The first couple of mission teams we had this year finished the transformation of the 7th grade room. They built a backpack rack, welded the wrought iron window coverings, painted the classrooms and poured a second stairway. It came together nicely. They even had time to paint the 8th grade classroom to facilitate the additional grade next year. We have purchased the tile for the entire first floor, as well as the blocks for the second level. All the doors are finished and waiting to be installed. Lights and ceiling fans are being installed in the new office. I'd say we are about 50% done. It looks like more, but it's probably less.

In my previous life as a mechanic, we'd say, "It just lacks finishing up." This is a way to say we are still working and there is a long way to go. To be honest, it was a nice way to tell your supervisor to leave you alone and you'll get it done. However, now I'm the overzealous supervisor wanting to see the project done and I tell myself almost daily, "We just lack finishing up." I know the building will be completed over the next year, but I also know I may never even see this project finished in my life time.

James Foster, On Site Administrator

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

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



This February we welcomed several teams to the school and had a great time with all of them. Our Indiana team works hard every year, repairing jumpers for the girls, fixing little things that need to be done at the beginning of school every year & helping us get the year started. The medical team from First Christian Church in Canton Ohio came & checked vitals on every child. The dental team came for 2 weeks this year and during the second week, they were joined by a team that did construction alongside our workers at the south campus. They painted and built stairs for the second level. Every person that came, left their mark. Some may say that it's part of their legacy. It's what people will remember after they are gone. There is a Casting Crowns song right now called "Only Jesus" and the whole song is super good, but the chorus says: *I don't want to leave a legacy, I don't care if they remember me. I've only got one life to live, I'll let every second point to Him. Only Jesus.* In March we lost 2 people that loved the school very much. Miss Pat (Patricia Louise Wilson) was one of the founders of the school and she lost her battle with a difficult illness on March 11th this year. The school would not be here without her work in those early days. She continued to support the school and loved the children of El Socorro deeply until the end. The way she pointed to Jesus was so clear. On March 10th, we lost a dear friend of the school unexpectedly. Dave Herndon was a recent supporter of the school. He had been here every year for the last 5 years and had purposely forged relationships with our teachers and community members. He was known as the "real deal" around these parts. And although we struggle with both of these losses here at the school, with confidence we know that they lived their whole lives pointing to the only One that can give meaning to an otherwise empty world. When we look at their lives we see Jesus. We're thankful for what they brought to us here. A sliver of His grace and a demonstration of obedience. It's the kind of legacy we all want. Always pointing to Jesus.