

Frequently Asked Questions from Sponsors about their Students:

- Why has my student left school? This is the primary concern of sponsors. Jeannette is a rural village. Extended family members may live in a bigger town or city. Sometimes families move or the student goes to live with a relative. Usually, around 6-8 grade there is a drop off in continuing education usually due to financial pressure of helping at home. Sometimes we see students leave one year and return the next.
- Can I send my sponsored child money? We discourage this practice because not all children in the village would be receiving this benefit and it could cause jealousy. We also want to protect you from being asked for money from your student's family if an expectation develops that you will give regularly. There have been relationships that continue beyond school at St. Marc's where the sponsor has decided to fund higher education.
- Why don't Haitian students smile in their photos? Until the recent development of access to Internet in Jeannette, students in Haiti did not smile for photos. Culturally, it is not appropriate to smile or even look directly at adults in Haitian culture. If we look at old family photos from the 1800's and early 1900's in the United States, people treated photos as a formal, serious occasion. This is still true in villages in Haiti.