

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Virgin Islands Observe Teacher Appreciation Week

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ST. CROIX – The Virgin Islands observed Teacher Appreciation Day Tuesday and is observing National Teacher Appreciation Week from May 4 to 8. Leaders from across the territory came forward to pay appreciation to teachers this week.

Sen. Kurt VIALET, a former high school principal, commented about the importance of education in the territory.

“As a former educator, I understand how important a good education is and how it can open the door to limitless possibilities,” VIALET said. “Teaching is a commitment that encompasses all and teachers make sacrifices every day in support of their students. Education can empower a child with the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential

and teachers have the amazing ability to make lasting impressions on a young person's life."

Sen. Kenneth Gittens, a former police officer, also noted the importance of recognizing teachers.

"Our young people are one of the most important assets of this society and teachers are the ones who guide and nurture them," Gittens said. "They should always be recognized for the work they do and the sacrifices they make. The boys and girls of our community represent the future of these islands and they are a true reflection of the path our society will take."

Education Commissioner designee Sharon McCollum, a former award-winning school administrator, also spoke to the importance of this week.

"The Department of Education would like to applaud and commend all of our educators during Teacher Appreciation Week," McCollum said. "The work you do makes an invaluable difference in the lives of our students and their families. I thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to creating a successful learning environment. Parents, please take the time to show appreciation to your child's teacher."

Violet called on the community to "take notice of the hard word and dedication of our teachers," especially this week.

"Teachers must strive to be role models who provide every student with the opportunity to grow as well as develop the necessary skills to take on any challenge they might encounter in the future," he said. "Teachers play a key role in student success and sometimes a simple 'thanks' is all a teacher needs to feel valued. I want to personally thank the amazing teachers of the Virgin Islands for their hard work and commitment to providing a world-class for students they serve every day."

Feature Image: Ms. Althea Bridgewater, who has been teaching for more than 12 years, instructs students in her 3rd grade class at Juanita Gardine Elementary on May 4

Image Credit: The Virgin Islands Department of Education