

## Office of Public Relations

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## Virgin Islands Department of Education Partners with NASA to Inspire Students and Community Through STEAM Initiatives

The Virgin Islands Department of Education's Division of STEAM Education, in collaboration with the St. Croix District, the St. Thomas-St. John District, Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park, and the Virgin Islands Montessori School and Peter Gruber International Academy, proudly announces its renewed partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) through the Kennedy Space Center.

From December 9–11, 2024, NASA will visit the islands of St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas to engage students and the wider community through its Exhibit and Community Outreach Programs. This partnership reflects the Department's ongoing commitment to fostering educational excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) and strengthening the STEM pipeline for students in the Virgin Islands.

## Program Highlights Include:

- Student Engagements: Students across the islands will have the rare and exciting opportunity to interact directly with NASA scientists, engineers, and other STEM professionals, gaining insights into space exploration, technology development, and career opportunities in STEM fields.
- Community Events: Each island will host a community event, allowing residents to learn about NASA's ongoing projects at the Kennedy Space Center, explore innovative technologies, and discover ways to inspire and support future STEM professionals in the Virgin Islands.

"This renewed collaboration with NASA highlights the Department's dedication to creating meaningful, hands-on learning experiences for our students and community. We are proud to bring NASA back to the Territory and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators," said Dr. Shamika S. Williams, State STEM Director.

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The Virgin Islands Department of Education is committed to providing high-quality education to students throughout the Territory. Through innovative programs and strategic partnerships, the Department aims to inspire excellence, foster innovation, and empower students to thrive in a global economy.