



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF **EDUCATION**

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VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES 2025-2026 ST. CROIX DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) proudly announces the distinguished educators selected as candidates for the 2025–2026 St. Croix District Teacher of the Year. These five outstanding professionals exemplify instructional excellence, leadership, and unwavering commitment to student achievement across the district.

“Each of these educators represents the best of our public education system. Their passion, innovation, and dedication uplift our schools, empower our students, and strengthen our community,” said the VIDE Commissioner Dionne Wells-Hedrington.

The 2025–2026 St. Croix District Teacher of the Year candidates are:

Adreian Sato – St. Croix Central High School

Adreian Sato serves as the Department Chairperson for Special Education and as a 9th Grade Resource Teacher at St. Croix Central High School. With 11 years of teaching experience, Mr. Sato is known for his collaborative approach, working closely with teachers, families, and administrators to support compliance, student growth, and academic success. His dedication ensures that every learner receives the individualized support they need to thrive.

Jayson Arcilla – Pearl B. Larsen PreK-8 School

Mr. Jayson Arcilla teaches 8th Grade Science and Social Studies and has been educating students for 10 years. A devoted coach and mentor, he has led the school’s Science Bowl and Junior Solar Sprint teams, inspiring young scholars to explore STEM disciplines. Mr. Arcilla’s hands-on, inquiry-based instruction helps cultivate curiosity and critical thinking among his students.

Joanie Phillip – Ricardo Richards Elementary School

Ms. Joanie Phillip, a 6th Grade English Language Arts teacher, began her career in 2008 and has since become a respected advocate for students and colleagues. She serves as a union representative for the American Federation of Teachers Local 1826 and teaches in the St. Croix Adult Education Program during evening hours, helping adult learners reach their academic goals. Her commitment to literacy and empowerment spans generations.

Ronda Campbell – St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC)

Mrs. Ronda Campbell joined the VIDE in 1997 and currently teaches Business at CTEC. A visionary

leader in career and technical education, she has played a pivotal role in building and advancing the School-to-Work (STW) Program—one of CTEC’s signature initiatives—providing students with valuable internship opportunities in local businesses. Her efforts bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world career readiness.

Jennifer Novero-Gantan – St. Croix Educational Complex High School

An International Cultural Exchange teacher, Ms. Jennifer Novero-Gantan instructs 11th Grade Trigonometry and AP Calculus. She collaborates extensively with the Mathematics Department to create a comprehensive, data-driven instructional cycle rooted in assessment and continuous improvement. Her dedication to rigorous, student-centered mathematics instruction prepares learners for college-level academics and STEM careers.

The VIDE celebrates these educators for their exceptional service and contributions to the students of St. Croix. The 2025–2026 St. Croix District Teacher of the Year will be selected from among these candidates and honored at the annual recognition ceremony later this school year.

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