



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF **EDUCATION**

Office of Public Relations

1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie * St. Thomas * U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746
Telephone: 340.774.0100 Ext. 8136 (STT/STJ) 340.773.1095 Ext. 7064 (STX)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2026

0102-26

For More Information Contact:
Office of Public Relations
public.relations@vide.vi

Virgin Islands Department of Education Announces Inaugural Parent Retreat Theme: “Bloom Where You Are Planted: Cultivating Parent Power”

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) announces its inaugural Parent Retreat, a two-day, experience designed to support, empower, and connect parents and caregivers of public-school students. The retreat reflects VIDE’s ongoing commitment to strengthening family engagement as a foundation for student success.

This year’s theme, “Bloom Where You Are Planted: Cultivating Parent Power,” focuses on helping parents build confidence, strengthen relationships, and gain practical tools to better support their children at home and in school.

“Parents are our students’ first teachers and strongest advocates. When parents are supported and empowered, children are better positioned to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. This retreat reflects our belief that strong schools are built through strong partnerships with families,” said Commissioner Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D.

St. Croix Schedule

Friday, February 27 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Family Fun Night – Buddhoe Park

Saturday, February 28 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Parent Retreat – Carambola Beach Resort

St. Thomas Schedule

Friday, March 27 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Family Fun Night – Ivanna Eudora Kean HS

Saturday, March 28 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Parent Retreat – The Westin Beach Resort

The first evening of each retreat weekend is open to the public and will feature a Family Fun Night, bringing parents, children, and caregivers together in a welcoming and relaxed environment. The second day is reserved exclusively for parents and caregivers and will include sessions focused on parenting strategies, communication, wellness, and practical tools that support student growth.

“This retreat was intentionally designed with parents at the center,” said Dynel Lang, Director of Parental and Community Engagement and event coordinator. “We want parents to leave feeling confident, supported, and empowered in the role they play in their child’s education.”

Participation is limited to 100 parents per district to ensure a meaningful and interactive experience. A registration request is required and available online at vide.vi. Confirmation emails will be sent no later than February 20th. Once capacity is reached, registration will close. VIDE is committed to equitable representation from schools across each district. Submission of a registration request does not guarantee placement until confirmation is issued.

For additional information, please contact Dynel Lang, Director of Parental and Community Engagement at dynel.lang@vide.vi or (340) 773-1095 Ext. 7095.

###