



Queen Ana Tejada Eduardo - Miss CAHS 2026

A Portrait Finds its Place

Iambakisye Richardson
Chief Editor

After a whirlwind evening of poise, patience, presence, and pride, executed after weeks of preparation, a new Miss Charlotte Amalie High School has been crowned. Four ‘Portraits of Elegance’ graced the stage with each setting the tone as soon as they spoke minutes after their start time. From the “Let me fix my hair” flips, to the “stop, bring the the beat back” of the opening number to the close out to Machel Montano’s encore, S’Naiah, Zoey, Ana, and D’Nae each left the audience wanting more.

The first segment, Icons of Education began with S’Naiah arriving as one of the Educator’s Park statues come to life. Taking the stage, Ms. Abraham channeled Edith Williams as b.oth educator and women’s suffrage activist. Zoey would follow with a colorful display of all the pieces that Lynette Glasford helped support shape and mold as a 31 year veteran special education teacher. Ana would keep her threads close and seamlessly chronicle Lurlene Gerard was veteran, musician, master-seamstress, choir advisor, and fashion taste-maker. To close out the segment, D’Nae would give us a commanding strut honoring Dr. Symra D. Browne.

The tempo would not be dialed down. Following Icons, the ladies would each showcase an evolved take on Charlotte Amalie High Schools aesthetic. The blue and blue integrated with gold and evolved into striking and sweeping changes with each contestant pulling uniquely from the CAHS day to day. S’Naiah’s fleur accented would give way to an all gold performance ensemble. Zoey’s blue and blue would give away to a second look with the shoulder stylized to channel the wings of the chickenhawk. Ana would shift from skirt, to pants, before fully transforming into a gold and navy plaid ensemble emblazoned with her contestant number. D’Nae took cosmetology and esthetics from the new CAHS stylist’s studio to the business front office transition from apron to business.

Talent would not disappoint. Songs, dancing, drumming, a timely skit, audience participation, the energy could not be tamed. Lastly, we’d arrive at evening wear as each young lady brought the theme of petals and pearls to life in their own way.

With the performances and showcase complete, the ladies were left with one final task... Question and Answer. Condensed to its simplest form the question was “How to do showcase leadership at Charlotte Amalie High School?” Though each valiantly sought their answer, D’Nae would present the clearest of the 4 going on to capture the title of Miss Intellect with her response.

As the results came in, the tight race began to reflect Ana as the front runner. Tejada Eduardo would ear the sash for Best Icon of Education, Evolution of Excellence, Talent, and split the title of Best Evening Wear it S’Naiah. S’Naiah would capture the title of Miss Photogenic, while Zoey would cinch Miss Popularity. Ana would also earn the accolades of Miss Cooperative and Congeniality.

Before the curtains would close on March 7th, the 2026 Miss Charlotte Amalie High School would feature First Runner-Up - S’Naiah Abraham and Miss CAHS would be Ana Tejada Eduardo. Now, who will be the next Miss CAHS?



Countdown to O-Town

Cassandra Remy
Reflector Staff

As the Charlot Amalie High School counts down to another Worldstrides Heritage Festival, we at The Reflector hit the beat to “reflect” on the mood from students, teachers, and the school. The staff of the Reflector took to the proverbial streets to check the temperature of those preparing to heat up the World(strides) stage.

Interviewer: Are you excited to be going on the Orlando Trip to compete in World Strides?

Student One: Yes, I am extremely excited.

Int.: How do you feel about playing with the jazz band, and do you have any hopes that you all will win or even rank?

Student One: I am excited to play with the jazz band and do think that even if we don’t get first place, we will place probably 2nd or 3rd place.

Int.: How do you think all the ensembles will do on the trip?

Student Two: All ensembles will exude nothing short of excellence.

Int.: With this being your first time competing, how do you feel going into this trip?

Student Two: Confident and excited. it’s a different feeling and ballgame compared to the concert performances here on island

Int.: What are you most looking forward to while on this trip?

Student Two: Bringing the gold back home

Int.: How do you feel about going on the band trip now compared to when you were just a parent supporting their child in 2023?

Mr. Breedy: As the director now, I feel much more informed. As a parent, a lot of the info was given to the parents almost 2 weeks before the trip. It wasn’t too organized in regards to the itinerary. I didn’t know my daughter’s chaperone until the very last meeting. I have been on this trip now in all capacities. As a student, as a parent and now as the director. Don’t think much people can actually say that.

Int.: Seeing the amount of work the students have put into this trip how well do you think they are going to do?

Mr. Breedy: I think the students can put in a lot more work before we leave actually. If they put in the time we will definitely soar above the rest of the competition

Int.: Will you be relieved when you no longer have to worry about making sure everyone and everything is prepared in time for the trip?

Mr. Breedy: Well, I am gonna stop worrying when we all return home, but I will try to relax after the competition day at least.

Int.: How do you feel going into the competition with a whole new jazz band?

Mr. Brathwaite: Having a whole new jazz band to prepare for a competition has its difficulties. However, I am optimistic that the jazz band will do whatever it takes to achieve a gold ranking and continue the gold streak that was set many years ago.

Int.: Do you have high hopes for the competition now as a teacher compared to when you were once a student?

Mr. Brathwaite: I have a less amount of hope as a teacher compared to my time as a student. The majority of the students during my high school years had outstanding musicianship.

Mr. B. (cont’d): The students’ current skill music level and attitude in the department is still making its way. We have to keep in mind that there are many circumstances now for the department compared to when I was in school.

Int.: Do you believe that your jazz band students have what it takes to overcome their challenges to bring the gold home?

Mr. Brathwaite: I do believe my jazz band students have what it takes. They just need to have practicing as a priority even if it is just a few minutes a day outside of school. I always tell them that they need to want better for themselves. Mediocrity shouldn’t be an option for a jazz band with rocketing potential once they apply themselves productively. It’s time for them to lock in, it’s crunch time!

THOUGHTS & OPINION

Does Religion Hold Back Society’s Progress

Jaden Frett

Reflector Staff



Religion has played an important role in shaping societies throughout history. It has influenced cultures, traditions, laws, and the way people think about morality and community. However, some people argue that strong religious influence can sometimes slow down social and scientific progress. This debate has become more common in modern society as people question how tradition and progress should exist together.

Throughout history, there have been moments when religious beliefs conflicted with new ideas. Scientific discoveries, social reforms, and changes in human rights have sometimes faced resistance from religious institutions that wanted to preserve traditional beliefs. For example, discussions about gender equality, reproductive rights, and LGBTQ+ rights often create tension between modern social movements and long-standing religious teachings.

Supporters of this view believe that when religion has too much influence over government or public policy, it may prevent societies from adapting to new knowledge or changing social needs. They argue that progress depends on open debate, education, and decisions based on evidence rather than strict religious doctrine.

On the other hand, many people believe religion plays a positive role in society. Religious organizations often provide charity, community support, education, and moral guidance. For many individuals, religion helps create a sense of identity and belonging that strengthens communities.

The challenge for modern societies is finding a balance between respecting religious traditions and encouraging progress. While religion continues to influence many parts of life, societies must also consider new ideas, scientific advancements, and evolving social values. Whether religion acts as a barrier or a guide for progress remains a topic that continues to spark discussion around the world.

The Ep X. Files

Syria Rhymer
Reflector Staff

The “Epstein files” refer to documents, testimonies, and court records connected to investigations of Jeffrey Epstein and the network of people associated with him. Epstein, a wealthy financier, was accused of running a long-term operation that exploited and trafficked young women and girls. According to investigations and lawsuits, he used his money and influence to recruit victims, often promising them jobs, money, or opportunities.

Instead, many were manipulated, abused, or pressured into situations where they were sexually exploited. The files include flight logs, witness statements, and legal records that help investigators understand who was involved and how the system operated. The documents also mention associates such as Ghislaine Maxwell, who was later convicted for helping recruit and groom victims for Epstein. Over time, victims came forward with testimonies describing how the trafficking network worked and how powerful connections made it difficult to stop.

The release of parts of the Epstein files has led to public debate about accountability, justice for victims, and whether other influential individuals connected to Epstein should face further investigation. The case remains one of the most widely discussed examples of how wealth and power can be used to hide serious crimes for many years.

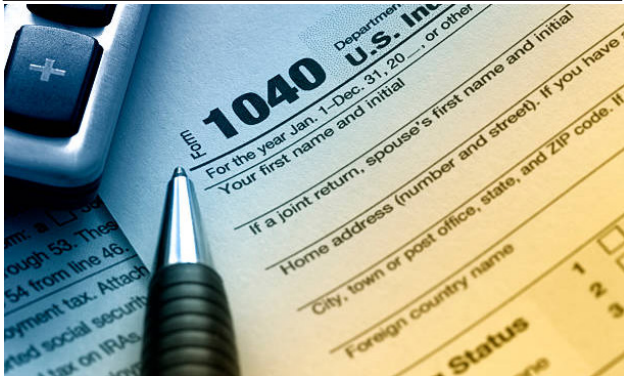
Finding the Right Balance

Rachel Sprauve
Reflector Staff

A new trend among teenagers is finding ways to balance school responsibilities with activities that help them relax and stay mentally healthy. Many students say that between homework, tests, sports, and social media, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to keep up with everything. Because of this, more teens are turning to simple hobbies such as drawing, listening to music, exercising, or spending time with friends and family (editor’s note: or sleeping) to reduce stress. Teachers and counselors say these activities are important because they help students recharge and improve their focus in school. Studies have also shown that taking short breaks and doing enjoyable activities can improve mood and productivity. Students who learn how to balance their responsibilities with healthy habits often perform better academically and feel more confident in their daily lives. As school pressures continue to grow, many educators encourage teenagers to remember that taking care of their mental well-being is just as important as achieving good grades.

Paid in Full Why Rich people should pay more taxes than average people

Rihanna Burrell
Reflector Staff



Taxes are an important part of how a country functions because they help pay for public services such as schools, roads, hospitals, and emergency services. One reason many people believe rich people should pay more taxes than average people is because they have a greater ability to contribute. Individuals who earn millions of dollars each year can afford to give a larger portion of their income without struggling to meet their basic needs. In contrast, average-income families often need most of their money for housing, food, healthcare, and other everyday expenses.

Another reason rich people should pay more taxes is because they often benefit greatly from the economic systems and infrastructure supported by tax dollars. Businesses rely on public roads, educated workers, and government services to succeed. When wealthy individuals and large corporations earn higher profits, it is partly because these systems are in place. Paying higher taxes helps support and maintain these systems so that the economy continues to grow and function properly.

Additionally, higher taxes on the wealthy can help reduce economic inequality. In many countries, the gap between the

richest and poorest citizens has been growing. When wealthy individuals contribute more through taxes, governments can invest that money into programs that support education, healthcare, and community development. These investments help create more opportunities for people from all backgrounds to succeed.

A fair tax system ensures that everyone contributes according to their means while helping to build a stronger and more balanced economy.

Senior Year Pressure: How CAHS Students Are Balancing School, College, and Life

Samyah Dowe
Reflector Staff

Senior year is often described as the most exciting year of high school, but for many students at Charlotte Amalie High School, it can also be one of the most stressful. Between college applications, scholarships, academic responsibilities, and personal commitments, seniors are finding themselves under increasing pressure as graduation approaches.

Many students say that balancing schoolwork with future planning is one of the biggest challenges. Seniors must keep their grades up while also preparing for life after high school, whether that means attending college, joining the workforce, or exploring other opportunities. The process of applying for colleges and scholarships can feel overwhelming, especially when deadlines, essays, and financial concerns all come at once.

In addition to academic pressure, students are also juggling extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, and personal relationships. Social media can sometimes add to that pressure by creating comparisons about achievements, college acceptances, or lifestyle expectations. For some seniors, the excitement of the final year can quickly turn into stress when trying to manage everything at once.

Guidance counselors encourage students to stay organized and remember that asking for help is important. Creating schedules, setting realistic goals, and taking time for mental breaks can help students manage the workload. Counselors also remind students that everyone’s path after graduation is different, and success does not look the same for every person.

Despite the challenges, many CAHS seniors remain optimistic about their future. While the pressure of senior year is real, it is also a time of growth, preparation, and opportunity as students take the next step toward adulthood.

CALENDAR & NOTICES

The SAT & PSAT

The CAW (Charlotte Amalie High Weekly Calendar) has some information on upcoming PSAT (NMSQT) testing dates as well as SAT dates. Visit <https://www.collegeboard.org/> or touch bases with your counselor for more information and/or to register for your first/next/final SAT.

Remember, both assessments are digital now and as such you can take practice tests to see how they feel. Registration for SAT is done through college board account and that same account is what you will log in using on the testing day. For the SAT, you should be at the testing site before 7:45 AM.

Charlotte Amalie High School be hosting the May 2 2026 SATs, while students can still take the June SAT, they would have to do so at another school or location offering it in the territory.

Smarter Balanced Assessment

Keep an eye and an ear out for information and be willing to put in the work to improve where you stand. The Smarter Balance assessment is coming. A formal schedule will be sent out and we will try to include that schedule in the reflector. At present the window opens on March 16 2026 and the tentative plan is to test on or around the week of April 13th. Juniors and Sophomores (Classes of 2027 and 2028) feel free to take advantage of all resources you can including seminar. The link to the SBAC page for the Virgin Islands is provided here for your benefit. <https://vide.portal.cambiumast.com/families.html>

Worldstrides Heritage Festival

It has been 4 years in the making and the various ensembles of the Charlotte Amalie High School Chickenhawk Music Department are getting ready to head to Orlando as a follow up to their incredible showing in Atlanta at Worldstrides in 2023. The Concert and Jazz Band, the Mello-Hawks Steel Ensemble, and the students of the Choir and Vocal Ensemble(s), their instructors and supporters are all hard at work getting ready to take our motto to O-Town where we know they will excel always.

Brain Builders

Rebus Puzzles

1

2

WATERWATERWATER

All of these puzzles are related to school, subjects, education, or items, lessons, or materials you would have learned, encountered, or utilized.

1. _ _ _ _ E _ _ _
An elevated/elevating St. Thomas Landmark
2. _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ _ _
A view coming and going whether Taphus or Charlotte Amalie.

Brain Builders

Cryptic Crossword

A cryptic crossword is a word puzzle where each clue is a miniature riddle, typically composed of a direct definition and a “cryptic” wordplay element, such as an anagram, container, or pun.

This issues cryptics will all relate to the Virgin Islands its history, culture, people, and appurtenances (things that represent or belong to the Virgin Islands).

- 1.) A Cadre of sunshine like blooms can treat you swell without us. (6, 5)
(Underlined: definition)(includes an anagram+container)

- 2.) A snug acre of land that once produced a sweet cash crop. (5, 4)
(Underlined: definition)(includes an anagram)

- 3.) You can start an argument if they demand you turnover sweets. (5)
(Underlined: definition)(includes an anagram)

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- 4.) Geometric fur artists and their tropical delicacies. (4, 6)
(Underlined: definition)(includes an anagram)

- 5.) A darkened watchtower they Teach of in VI lore found in an SC tale. (11, 6)
(Underlined: paronomasia/definition)(includes an anagram)

- 6.) Love City sun criterion for freedom. ([2, 4], 12)
(Underlined: definition)(includes a container/anagram)

ANSWERS: Rebus Puzzles

(1) 99 Steps
(2) Waterfront
ANSWERS: Cryptic Crossword
(1) Yellow Cedar (2) Sugar Cane (3) Tarts (4) Star Fruits
(5) Blackbeard's Castle (6) St. John Insurrection