

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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October 18, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE (No. 24-2018)

The Virgin Islands Board of Education Commemorates Birthdate of Guy Benjamin

The 18th Virgin Islands Board of Education wishes to commemorate the birthdate of one of the icons of Virgin Islands Education, Mr. Guy Benjamin. The Board believes it is important to recognize and commemorate those persons who have shaped the educational process in the Virgin Islands. Often, generations of our children pass through these public schools and have no idea who the buildings were named after or why. The Board is attempting to provide a sense of history and assure our children that affording them a quality education was a conscious decision that was made many years before they were born.

Guy Benjamin was born on October 18, 1913 on the island of St. John. Mr. Benjamin began his career in education in 1933 on St. Thomas when he was appointed as a teacher at the then Abraham Lincoln School, now known as the J. Antonio Jarvis School. His educational transitions took him to the former Horace Mann School on St. John, and then the Thomas Jefferson School, now known as the Jarvis Annex. He also taught at the former Bethany school on St. John. His introduction to administration came when he served as a principal-teacher at the former Benjamin Franklin School on St. John. He was motivated to continue his education and matriculated to Howard University in Washington where he earned a Bachelor's in English. Upon returning to the Virgin Islands, he resumed his principal-teacher position at the Benjamin Franklin School.

Mr. Benjamin proceeded to further his education thereby earning a Master's in administration from the New York University. He continued to advance within his field of education and in addition to principal, he also occupied the position of Education Officer, Coordinator of Educational Programs on St. John, and District Superintendent of Schools for St. Thomas/St. John. In 1974, he retired from the position of Superintendent and was awarded recognition by the Legislature for his forty (40) years of service. In 1981 he published his first book entitled "Me and My Beloved Virgin, St. John, USA".

The members of the 18th Virgin Islands Board of Education, stand on the shoulders of this icon of education and feel that he is due the recognition, and to be commemorated in the month of his birth. The Board asks that the public join us in remembering his contributions and honoring his memory.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Virgin Islands Board of Education is committed to its vision and will promote the transformation of the structure of existing public education through:
1. governance over the public education system; 2. improved student, parent, teacher relationship; 3. comprehensive community engagement; 4. standards that promote high academic achievement; 5. creation of an environment that is conducive to effective communication; 6. enhanced quality of professional development for all; 7. provision of adequate resources to achieve our vision, goals and objectives.

VISION STATEMENT

To ensure that each child is provided with the best quality education which promotes our history and culture, guarantees academic achievement and builds strong communities.