

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION**



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**The Virgin Islands Board of Education
Commemorates Birthdate of Jose Antonio Jarvis**

The 18th Virgin Islands Board of Education wishes to commemorate the birthdate of one of the icons of Virgin Islands Education, **Mr. Jose Antonio Jarvis**. 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.

Jose Antonio Jarvis was born on November 22, 1901. He is noted as being among the first Virgin Islanders to record the history of the territory both from a historical and sociological perspective. His book, "Brief History of the Virgin Islands", was written to provide high school students with crucially needed information on their own history. In 1930, he and Ariel Melchior, Sr. founded the Daily News, a newspaper established to keep the public informed. It became the most influential independent newspaper of the Virgin Islands. Mr. Jarvis served as editor of the paper until 1940, when the partnership with Mr. Melchior was dissolved. Mr. Jarvis remained active in the literary and publication industry, publishing works of prose, poetry, and drama.

Mr. Jarvis began his teaching career in 1924 when he was employed as a teacher at the St. Thomas Academy, a private school on St. Thomas. Shortly after being named to this position, he accepted a position in the public school system where he taught social studies at the then Abraham Lincoln School. In 1934 he was transferred to the Charlotte Amalie High School. Ten years later he returned to the Lincoln School as the principal and served there for the remainder of his career.

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.