

# GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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### **The Virgin Islands Board of Education Commemorates Birthdate of Arthur A. Richards**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Virgin Islands Board of Education wishes to commemorate the birthdate of one of the icons of Virgin Islands Education, Mr. Arthur A. Richards. The Board believes it is important that 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.

Mr. Arthur A. Richards was born on St. Croix Virgin Islands on September 8, 1924. He was a product of the local elementary and secondary schools on the islands. Mr. Richards attended Howard University in Washington D.C. earning his bachelor's degree in 1949. After completing his studies he returned to the Virgin Islands, where he accepted a teaching position at the then Frederiksted Junior High School. A year later, he moved to the Christiansted Junior High School where taught for one year. In 1951 he was appointed as principal of the Frederiksted Elementary school where he served in that capacity for seven (7) years.

Mr. Richards continued his education and earned a master's degree in 1961. He continued to move through the ranks of education, going from Deputy Commissioner and later Commissioner of Education for the VI Department of Education. On March 16, 1981, Mr. Richards was inaugurated as the first Virgin Islander to occupy the post of the president of the University of the Virgin Islands.

The members of the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 honor 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.