

The Virgin Islands
Department of Education Presents
**2022-2023 ST. CROIX DISTRICT
TEACHER OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE**



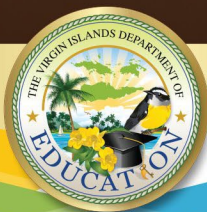
LINDA JAMES

Science

St. Croix Educational Complex High School

— **For full bio, visit www.vide.vi** —

— *"Transforming Today's Learners Into Tomorrow's Leaders"* —



Linda James

Biography

Mrs. Linda Geraldine Kendall James, a native of St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, esteems her role as an educator as an honor and privilege. Her unstinted commitment, dedication, and hard work are propelled by the biblical mandate – “whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with all thy might unto the end.” Time”, she claims, “is the major difference between many of our students and us as educators. Our worth is seen in the quality of education we provide to our students. Leaving a legacy of invaluable service in education should be our ultimate career goal as educators.”

Ms. James has been an elementary, middle, and high school teacher by experience. She infuses her maternal qualities in her teaching. She treats her students like her own children. In some instances, students refer to her as “Mommy James.” She holds to the prospect that many of her students will one day preside over her as leaders. Her greatest reward is watching her students rise to great heights. As educators, we each play a major role in building the characters of our future leaders.

As an educator in the United States Virgin Islands Department of Education, Mrs. James holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and a Master of Arts degree in Education. She has taught at the John H. Woodson Middle School and the St. Croix Educational Complex High School (SCECHS). She holds the administrators, workers, and teachers of these schools in high regards. Over the years, she has built strong connections with many of her colleagues due to her strong value of interpersonal relationships. Forthrightness, utmost respect, altruism, and honesty exemplify four qualities that permeates her relationship with her team.

In the classroom, Mrs. James believes impactful, relevant, and rigorous learning should be fun. She seeks to engage her students in a variety of learning experiences. At the middle and high school levels, she has taught Physical Science, General Biology I, General Biology II, Marine Biology, and Forensic Science. For each content area, Mrs. James seeks to convince her students that a career in that field will reap great rewards, particularly in the 21st century where the need is great. The full participation of her students in hands-on learning experiences, research, and scholarly discussions are reinforced and extended through field trips, nature study, debates, hikes, beach clean-ups, community service opportunities, and guest presentations. Students are thoroughly immersed in STEM learning. Two noteworthy experiences include a visit of her Forensic Science students to the Superior Court where students were privileged to witness the beginning phase of a murder trial. Additionally, her Marine Biology class has participated in creating coral reef cultures at the Nature’s Conservancy in St. Croix. The VIESCorp also adopted the class from the fall of 2021.

Mrs. James’ involvement in many school-related extracurricular activities at SCECHS keeps her active. She is the Associate Eco Club director and has assisted in leading the members to achieve the bronze award for the school. In 2020 – 2021, she helped to establish the SCECHS Science National Honor Society (SNHS). In 2021- 2022, the STEM mural project, the brain child of Mrs. James, was launched. This project served to boost the morale of the students in the

post-covid period. The SNHS students were guided, under her leadership, to assist with the grant requirements. They were duly awarded as the outstanding student club in the district. Additionally, Ms. James felt honored as one of the Internal Coordinators for the 2021- 2022 SCECHS accreditation. Throughout the process, she along with a team including administrators and teachers created the school jingle which epitomizes the school pride. Under her leadership, teachers, administrators, and staff members participated in weekly series of videos geared at building school pride and ownership for all stakeholders. As such, she feels proud of the role she played in the process that led to obtaining full accreditation for the next seven years without provisions. The hard work was well-rewarded. Additionally, she has also coordinated the senior class Baccalaureate service for over five years and served as the welcome team's coordinator. In this capacity, she has ensured that the guests were treated with high etiquette skills by the Junior class students assigned. Within the community, Mrs. James continues to use her musical skills to enhance the music production in churches and outdoor activities as a vocalist, choir director, and musician.

As a Science educator, Mrs. James serves presently as the chairperson for the Science Department and Science representative for the Science Curriculum Committee. As the department chair, she acknowledges the role of relevance and engaging practices with standards alignment. She continues to assist teachers in creating a rich supportive environment for learning. Teachers are more productive in an environment where they are well-respected and supported. As a member of the Science Curriculum Committee, she has played a role in instructional guidelines for all Science teachers in the district.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the love and support of her amazing and supportive family members. Pastor Wilmoth James of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and children, Attorney Jechonias James, Attorney Sherica James, and Wilmoth James, II are her biggest supporters and constant reminders of the impact of deep commitment and dedication. She salutes her Seventh-day Adventist Church family for their support and the leadership skills they have promoted. She deems her life as worth the living to the fullest with a positive Christian mindset.