

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

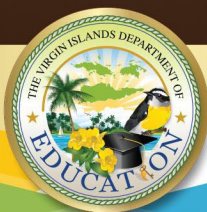


JACQUELINE P. FRANCIS, ED.S.

2nd Grade
Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School

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

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



Jacqueline P. Francis

Biography

I am Jacqueline P. Francis, Ed. S., a first - generation Virgin Islander born and raised in America's Paradise on the beautiful mountainous island of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. A proud product of the Virgin Islands public school system, I have journeyed through the halls and corridors of Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School, Wayne Aspinall Junior High School (was then renamed The Addelita Cancryn Junior High School), and completed my formal schooling at the Charlotte Amalie High School as a member of the illustrious class of 1986.

I am a double alumna of the University of the Virgin Islands – earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in English, and Master of Arts in Education with an Administration & Supervision concentration. I transferred my love for teaching a few short months after earning my Bachelor of Arts Degree as a third grade teacher & substitute head of school at the Lutheran Parish School. My tenure with the Virgin Islands Department of Education began at the historical J. Antonio Jarvis Elementary School in the memorable year of 1995. Upon its closure, I continue to develop young minds at the Jane E. Tuitt Primary (now elementary) School. I am a twenty- eight year teaching veteran of the Virgin Islands Department of Education, and I am in my thirty- second year of service as an educator! A life - long learner, I most recently completed studies at Walden University (Minnesota) where I earned an Education Specialist Degree in Educational Administration and Leadership. I am a highly qualified educator, certified by the Virgin Islands Board of Education, where I hold a Professional Educator Class II license.

A philosophy of education helps educators to understand the purpose of education, what should be taught, and how students learn. A philosophy helps to integrate understanding into the educational process. I have maintained this philosophy throughout my teaching career, “All children should be educated in a wholesome manner because educated citizens create thriving societies.” If we can educate all children, we can improve our society! My philosophy of education was developed through reflections of my own learning experiences under the tutelage of the vast veterans of educators. I can truly say that my former educators, on every level of schooling, have helped to mold me into the well – rounded, civic - minded individual and professional that I am today.

I set out to be an effective teacher in my world of education, and I truly believe and recognize that I have met my goals in this arena. However, this achievement has not been a smooth solo ride; it has been a journey of highs, lows, and near – misses. My survival can be attributed to my position as a team - player; this is one attribute that all educators should deem critical if success must come to our students, our children. Through spirited teamwork, our students receive content through a variety of instructional strategies that positively affect their cognitive development and academic achievement. I believe in teaching the whole child – social development, emotional behavior, and cognitive ability.

I have labeled myself an instructional leader. I believe in building teacher capacity, which in turn will improve student achievement. As a participant of varying academies and

professional learning communities - Teacher Leader Academy, Science NGSS Standards Institute, The National Center for Continuing Education Professional Learning Community for Technology Integration for Classroom Instruction, and the BESOL I and II courses, I have taken the opportunity to share the wealth of new information with colleagues across the district, in addition, to using the information to increase my level of instruction with my students. I aim to produce mathematics and science enthusiasts from among my second - grade mathematics and science students.

Beyond imparting knowledge to my students, I have always used my experienced - teacher status to support first year teachers on campus, and have hosted several University of the Virgin Islands student teachers. Currently, I am a recognized mentor and support for several first year teachers in our district. I embrace the collaboration as we share ideas and strategies with each other, and build relationships; it has been a powerful experience.

I believe in school spirit and strongly urge colleagues to get involved. I actively participate in my school's community – The School Improvement Team, Data Team, all academic committees, cultural liaison, Awards Day coordinator, social committee, program lead for the district's Extended Day program, Site Coordinator and Administrator for the district's summer enrichment programs, and S.T.E.A.M. day activities coordinator. It is important to show one's versatility; students will want to emulate and get involved in other aspects of the learning continuum.

However, in my decades of having the privilege of developing young Virgin Islanders, building school spirit, and collaborating with colleagues, my greatest accomplishment is being the mother of an awesome, beautiful, and intelligent young lady, Calida' A. C. Ambrose. She is an upper - level university student, who is a mathematics and science enthusiast; a woman in S.T.E.M. My daughter helps to keep me centered and reminds me that I am human. I acknowledge my Lord and personal savior, the giver of life, who grants me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as I journey here on earth. He is my source, for all things, and without him, I can do nothing. I quote one of my favorite bible verses, “ I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13