

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

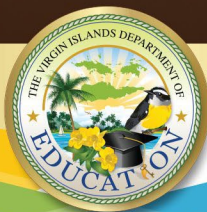


**KIMBERLY NELSON**

Mathematics  
John H. Woodson Jr. High School

— **For full bio, visit [www.vide.vi](http://www.vide.vi)** —

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



# **Kimberly Nelson**

## **Biography**

The Roper Family was not complete until the arrival of their fifth and final child, Kimberly Michelle Roper, born in Manhattan New York to Gloria and Albert Roper. At 2 years old, she migrated with her family to St. Croix, her mother's native home. This Cruzan Gem grew up running the neighborhood streets of Mon Bijou and is a proud product of the public school system of the Virgin Islands having attended the Alfredo Andrew Elementary School, the brand new John H. Woodson Jr. High School when it first opened in 1982, and Central High School. She was a proud graduate of the "Elite Class of 1987".

Like most Island children back then, eager to leave the island to go abroad, she left to attend Norfolk State University in Norfolk Virginia, then transferred and completed her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting in 1993 at St. Augustine's University in Raleigh North Carolina. That same year she wedded her high school sweetheart Terrence Nelson. The couple has been married for the past 29 years, and together they have 4 children: Terrence, Tafari, Tywreh and Keturah Nelson and 3 grandchildren: Kylee, Talib and Tafari Nelson.

Upon returning home in 1995, Kimberly worked as an Insurance Agent at Marshall & Sterling before answering the call for Teachers by the Virgin Islands Education Department in 1997. It is there, at the John H. Woodson Jr High School that she found her passion for inspiring and nurturing young minds. As she aspired to be a good mother, she also aspired to be a good teacher and grew into both roles simultaneously.

Mrs. Nelson has taught at the John H. Woodson Jr High School for the past 25 years and has always been an intricate part of the Woodson Family. Embracing the school-team concept, she is a team player and a teacher who has actively participated in every facet of the school's operations over the years, to include School Improvement Planning Team, Accreditation Committee, Assessment Team, Graduation Committee, Robotic Club, PTSA, 21st Century Program, Smarter Balance Pep Rally Committee, Sunshine Committee, AVID, Common Core Certified Trainer, Math Counts Advisor, Team Leader, Summer School Teacher, IXL Coach/Trainer, Queen Show Tabulator, and Math Department Chairperson for 10+ years. However, her joy, reward and stomping ground is the classroom, where growing the whole child is her concern. Having said all that, her true worth undoubtedly has always been unseen - working behind the scenes, helping students, parents, colleagues, administrators, friends and family alike. Mrs. Nelson is indeed the real McCoy and a true MacGyver.

She has also had the opportunity to learn extensively throughout the years having attended numerous training and workshops afforded her by the Virgin Islands Department of Education both in the Virgin Islands and abroad - always returning to conduct training and workshops of her own to impart the knowledge to her fellow colleagues. She also presented at AFT TEACH on "How to Create an Interactive Math Notebook" (an AVID strategy) and traveled to make a presentation on "Using Robotics to Interest Caribbean Students in STEM Careers" at the International STEM Education Association Conference in St. Louis, Missouri in 2018 - a collaboration with the University of the Virgin Islands STEM Institute.

Along with being heavily involved in school activities, she still finds time to clean her church “Victorious Believers” every Saturday morning at 6am, teach “Cultivate”, a class for new converts, and teach the youths at Sunday School.

Through Positive Works, Inc., a nonprofit organization created by her husband, she has assisted in hosting “Unity Retreat Camp” during the Easter Break at Cramer’s Park for over 20 years and hosted several summer camps over the years.

Mrs. Nelson just “doesn’t know how to keep still” but her heart is in the right place. Her only desire is to be a blessing to those she encounters. She is a true Cruzan Gem and a Child of God.