



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

**Office of Public Relations**

1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie \* St. Thomas \* U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746  
Telephone: 340.774.0100 Ext. 8136 (STT/STJ) 340.773.1095 Ext. 7064 (STX)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**0308-24**

**March 18, 2024**

**For More Information Contact:**

Shayla S. Solomon

Director, Public Relations & Communications

[shayla.solomon@vide.vi](mailto:shayla.solomon@vide.vi)

[www.vide.vi](http://www.vide.vi) ~ [www.facebook.com/usvi.vide](https://www.facebook.com/usvi.vide)

## **Virgin Islands Department of Education Announces Territorial Spelling Bee Competition & State MATHCOUNTS Competition**

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) is pleased to announce two exciting student-centered academic competitions scheduled to be held on St. Croix. First, the 51st Annual Territorial Spelling Bee Competition is set for Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 9:00 am. Additionally, the State MATHCOUNTS Competition is scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 11:00 am.

The Territorial Spelling Bee Competition will be held at the Free Will Baptist Christian School, while the State MATHCOUNTS Competition will take place at the Research and Technology Park on the Albert Sheen Campus of the University of the Virgin Islands.

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, students from both districts competed in District Spelling Bee competitions held on St. Thomas and St. Croix. Evan Fahie of Lockhart K-8 School emerged as the winner for the St. Thomas-St. John District, with Rayan Felix of Free Will Baptist Christian School securing victory in the St. Croix District.

Both winners will advance to the Territorial Competition, where they will be joined by other district finalists, forming a cohort of 12 students vying for the prestigious title of USVI Territorial Champion. Among the finalists are Chasidy Pickering, Joseph Greaux, Jasem Rahhal, J'adora Burke, Layla Jacobs, Kaiden Lettsome-Dowe, Eli Blash, Amera Paul, Kashyma Paul, and Kwalane Flemming.

The St. Thomas-St. John (STTJ) Chapter MATHCOUNTS took place on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, while the St. Croix (STX) Chapter MATHCOUNTS occurred on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students from public, private, and parochial schools demonstrated their extensive mathematical skills. The top 10 students from each district competition will compete at the March 21<sup>st</sup> State MATHCOUNTS Competition.

St. Croix District, top ten students include: Teague Gleason, Eric Sommer, William Simon, KNala Hendrickson, Naazir Joseph, AJ Mauro, Diella Maynard, Armani Carr, Cole Cullinan, and Mykal Heyliger. St. Thomas/St. John District, top ten students are: Daniel Xu, Sanjiv Bachan, Evan Fahie, Kai Santiago, DJ Parson, Alben Vasquez-Mota, Joyce Monamane, Luka Norris, Patricia Cannon, and Elize Acuna.

The VIDE thanks its Division of Curriculum and Instruction for its remarkable efforts in organizing the Spelling Bee and MATHCOUNTS Competitions. VIDE also extends sincere appreciation to the Virgin Islands Daily News for its continued sponsorship of the District and Territorial Spelling Bees. Gratitude is also extended to The Rotary Club of St. Thomas II and the Mid-Isle Rotary Club for their ongoing sponsorship of the MATHCOUNTS Competitions on St. Thomas and St. Croix respectively. A heartfelt thank you is extended to all coordinators, coaches, parents/guardians, and the community for their unwavering support of all students competing in District, State, and Territorial Competitions.

###