

ARTHUR RICHARDS CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW CAMPUS WITH HOMECOMING CELEBRATION ON FEBRUARY 15

Report card distribution also scheduled

ST. CROIX, USVI – Following a successful first week of instruction at its new modular campus, the Arthur A. Richards Junior High School cordially invites the public to its Grand Homecoming Celebration and Parade on Friday, February 15, 2019.

The Homecoming Parade will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Walter IM Hodge Housing Community. Following the parade, the Honor Roll Ceremony and the Miss Sweetheart Coronation will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the school's cafeteria.

Report card distribution and guided tours of the new campus for parents and guardians is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The new modular campus, just south of the original school, welcomed students on Monday, February 11.

Arthur Richards' students and faculty were excited and felt fairly comfortable as they settled in on their first day.

"It feels good being at the new school, especially coming from the Woodson campus. I can't wait to see what my new classrooms look like," said seventh-grader Samira Payne, as she waited for her class to be called.

Students met in the cafeteria for a short assembly where Principal Kent Moorehead welcomed students and staff to the new campus before individually dismissing classes with their first-period teacher. Faculty and staff wore yellow safety vests so that students easily recognized them.

"So far the morning is off to a good start. The only hiccup is breakfast but we're working on that," said Principal Moorehead.

Breakfast was late due to a lack of resources in the kitchen. However, Principal Moorehead made sure breakfast was still served, just at a later time. Students who wanted breakfast were allowed to leave their class to eat and then return upon completion of their meal.

He continued, "hopefully tomorrow morning we won't have this problem and everything will run smoothly."

Positive and joyful energy filled the atmosphere throughout the campus.

Seventh-grade English Language Arts Teacher Mrs. E. Lord-Raffin shared her sentiments.

"It feels really awesome to be back," she continued. "Actually, it felt like the amazing race because I arrived early and I was greeted by one of the workers, who told me 'congratulations, you are the first teacher to arrive.' So it feels great."

“Being on our own campus is a breath of fresh air. We have more space, it’s a wonderful facility, and we feel comfortable,” said Monitor Alpha Taylor.

Acting Deputy Superintendent Dr. Carla Bastian shared her observation of the first day.

“Our students this morning are very eager, they are excited; our teachers are excited, they seem extremely comfortable and we’re happy to see that.” Dr. Bastian continued, “Now we’re looking forward to all the great stuff that is going to come out of the remainder school year.”

Seventh-grade science teacher Krystal Martin was happy to have access to technology.

“I am so happy to have my own class again! I just can’t wait to get connected to the Internet so I can show my students videos on the Promethean board and make instruction more interactive.”

Internet connection is on track to be fully functioning by the end of the week.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Yvette McMahon-Arnold was pleased with the opening of the new modular campus.

“I am pleased with everything thus far. I hopped into a few classrooms and spoke with the students and teachers and they’re happy to be back. That’s the most important thing.” She continued, “I sat in the assembly and realized I was fighting back tears because I am just happy that Arthur Richards is open—reopened on its own campus, and there are smiling faces all around campus.”

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