



# 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 Fax: 340.774.1168

340.773.1095 Ext. 7064 Fax: 340.773.4624

November 4, 2021

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Cynthia T. Graham

Director, Public Relations & Communications

(340) 773-1095, Ext. 7064

[cynthia.graham@vide.vi](mailto:cynthia.graham@vide.vi)

[www.vide.vi](http://www.vide.vi)

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

### **St. Croix Students Receive Donation of School, Safety Supplies from Local Church**

ST. CROIX, USVI –The St. Croix District received a donation of 250 backpacks filled with school and safety supplies, courtesy of St. Croix Christian Church, as part of the church’s efforts to continue its service to children.

District Director of Curriculum & Instruction Pedro Parrilla accepted the donation on behalf of the district from Pastor David Claeys at a brief ceremony held at the Curriculum Center on Oct. 29. Ten of the district’s schools will receive 25 backpacks each, with the purpose of providing the supplies to students in need.

“We were just trying to be a blessing,” Claeys said of his church’s decision to make the donation. He explained that in light of the church’s Jericho Road Project afterschool program not operating this school year, the congregation wanted to help students in some way. Soon after the decision was made to donate the backpacks, Coldwell Banker St. Croix Realty called and offered its support.

“They called and wanted to partner with us to provide the backpacks,” Claeys said. “We just wanted to be a blessing to the community, and hopefully this helps.”

Each bag contains three folders, loose leaf paper, a glue stick, a ruler, crayons, pencils, a pencil sharpener, ear plugs, a mask, and hand sanitizer.

Parrilla thanked Claeys for the charitable gift.

“On behalf of the Office of the Insular Superintendent and the District Office of Curriculum and Instruction, we want to thank you for this gracious donation,” he said. “The church has always been seen as one pillar of the community and the school as the other. So, to have that partnership is very important. Thank you on behalf of the children of the Virgin Islands.”

St. Croix Christian Church plans to continue supporting the district’s schools through additional donations when the need arises.

*The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory’s people, infrastructure, and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government, and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit [www.transparency.vi.gov](http://www.transparency.vi.gov).*

###