



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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November 17, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL RESUMES OPERATIONS NOVEMBER 18

Sewer lines flushed and other corrective actions made to eliminate odor affecting campus

ST. CROIX, USVI – Central High School will resume regular operations on Monday, November 18, with bus service, following the flushing of sewer lines on and near the campus, and other corrective actions to eliminate a gaseous odor that closed the school for three days last week.

According to Virgin Islands Department of Education St. Croix District officials, all clean-outs and manholes were inspected on the Central High campus. As a precaution, the Maintenance Division capped exposed PVC clean-outs on the school's 900 Wing, and a banana grove at the northeast end of the 1000 Wing was uprooted and disposed of, as it was thought the root structure may have caused sewage lines to collapse.

A private contractor was brought in to thoroughly flush sewer lines on the Central High campus through those at the St. Croix Curriculum Center. Blockages were encountered and unclogged between manholes #3 and #5. Additionally, it was discovered that manhole #2 did not have an odor knocker, an apparatus used for odor control in manholes. The Maintenance Division used foam to seal around that manhole cover. The operation was monitored by the Waste Management Authority, which deposited a Cree Breeze solution in each manhole to minimize odors from escaping.

In addition to Waste Management, other external agencies worked closely with the Department of Education to identify the cause of the odor, including Department of Health division of Environmental Enforcement and Department of Planning and Natural Resources division of Environmental Protection.

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