8/18/18

ST. ALBANS SCHOOL

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Dear St. Albans Alumni, Parents, Faculty, and Staff:

On Friday, August 17, a *Washington Post* reporter contacted the school about an investigative news story he is writing involving allegations that teachers sexually abused students at a Maryland private school in the 1970s. We expect the article about the Key School in Annapolis to appear in Sunday's paper; a version is now available on the *Post* website. One of the teachers named in the report, Vaughn Keith, later became a member of the St. Albans faculty in the 1980s, teaching Classics from 1983 until his death, at age 40, in 1990.

While the allegations in the *Washington Post* report predate Mr. Keith's tenure at St. Albans, we are disturbed by the information in the article, including the revelation that the Key School headmaster in the mid-1970s had fired Mr. Keith over allegations of sexual activity with students. I am writing to the St. Albans community in a spirit of openness and transparency, with the solemn assurance that we will examine this matter thoroughly and unsparingly, guided as always by the safety and well-being of all St. Albans students, past and present, and by the faith our families place in us when they entrust their children to our care. Our initial research suggests St. Albans was unaware of the allegations made against Mr. Keith and of his termination from the Key School, although we intend to conduct a thorough review of the facts. We will keep the community appropriately informed, if and when any additional relevant information comes to light.

If you have thoughts or concerns you would like to share with me, I encourage you to do so. My email is jrobinson@stalbansschool.org. And my phone number is 202-537-6430.

Our chaplain (the Rev. Brooks Hundley) and psychologists (Dr. Joseph Viola and Dr. Carrie Friend) support our entire community. Their contact information is listed below, and they welcome the opportunity to hear from you if there is something you would like to share with them. Anne Arundel County police are investigating the allegations; their tip line is 410-222-4700.

Please know that we approach the issue of sexual abuse and misconduct with the highest degree of care and seriousness.

Our current policies regarding hiring of faculty and staff are rigorous. We complete a comprehensive background check and fingerprint every new hire and follow up with repeat background checks every five years. Additionally, every faculty and staff member undergoes professional training on child abuse and exploitation. This training reviews appropriate behavior for adults, signs of child abuse, and the immediate steps to take when abuse is suspected. Our employee handbook also includes very detailed guidelines on child abuse.

We educate our students, both through the curriculum and through regular conversations about abuse and how to respond. The student handbook, distributed to every family, also includes the school's child abuse and neglect guidelines. We strive every day to create a safe, open, and supportive culture where every child's well-being is paramount.

The revelations in the *Washington Post* report are deeply unsettling but also remind us of the sacred trust placed in us as a school by our boys and our families, a trust that can never be compromised.

Thank you for your support, and please reach out to me, our chaplain, or our school psychologists if we can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

Jason Robinson

Jason Robinson
Headmaster

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