

## Press Release

Sex Abuse Scandal at Manhattan Private School

March 18, 2020

As an alumnus of the St. David's School at 12 East 89<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY, I'm writing to let you know that the school is facing a potential civil suit for not protecting students in the 1970s from sexual abuse by two male teachers. In addition, St. David's is actively rebuffing students who were molested.

For a complete timeline and information, with downloadable documents, about how events have ensued up to now, please visit this website established by alumnus Charles Huschle. Huschle can be reached at 617-756-4703 or email [abusesurvivor1976@gmail.com](mailto:abusesurvivor1976@gmail.com).

Story at <https://www.charleshuschle.com/rey-buono> and <https://www.charleshuschle.com/blog>

For more information about pending civil suits, please contact Youssif Kamal, St. David's alumnus of the Class of 1978, at 646-765-7035

For more information about the Child Victim Act and the Manhattan/New York County Sex Crimes Unit of the District Attorney's Office, please contact DA Nicole Blumberg at [blumbergn@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:blumbergn@dany.nyc.gov) or at 212-335-9373

St. David's is represented by Sharon Nelles of Sullivan Cromwell in New York, [Nelles@sullcrom.com](mailto:Nelles@sullcrom.com)

## The Teachers and the Facts

Teacher **Rey Buono** left St. David's in 1973 to continue teaching at Milton Academy in Massachusetts. He was indicted in 2018 in Massachusetts on three counts of child rape and is under house arrest there, awaiting a decision by the Supreme Judicial Court.

Buono was extradited from Thailand to face charges of sexual abuse at Milton Academy in 2017. Extensive investigation resulted in mounds of evidence against him and his eventual detention by Thai and US authorities. However, legal issues around the MA statute of limitations have stalled his trial. His case was extensively covered by Boston media including members of the "Spotlight" team that investigated abuses by the Catholic Church.

The second St. David's teacher, **Robert Ludlow**, is deceased, but is accused by numerous St. David's alumni of having sexually molested them inside classrooms at the school, at 12 East 89th St., during the early 1970s. Ludlow was once a writer for *The Catholic Worker* and worked closely with Dorothy Day. Espousing radical Catholic ethics, Ludlow at the same time was sexually abusing young boys. Three students have come forward to attempt to come to some kind of resolution with the school, but the school has rebuffed them. **At the time of abuse, these students ranged in age from nine to twelve.**

New York State extended the statute of limitations on pursuing sex offenders through the Child Victim Act of 2018, and so these former students may file suit against offenders and the places that employed them, in order to recover physical and emotional damages that result from child molestation.

Why is this newsworthy?

- (1) One out of every six men is sexually abused as a boy. The **#MeToo** movement includes these men. This kind of news is especially

pertinent in a time when abusers like Harvey Weinstein are being brought to justice.

- (2) Unlike Milton Academy, which stood behind its abused alumni and investigated Buono, **St. David's has refused to do so despite several requests from alumni, thus implicitly aligning itself with a sex offender.** St. David's is a well-regarded, sought-after independent boy's school on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, with a **\$70 million endowment** and a community that includes media celebrities.
- (3) Alumnus Charles Huschle has made repeated requests of St. David's to **establish a fund to benefit the healing of sexual abuse survivors**, but has been ignored. As an abuse survivor himself, Huschle is well aware of the challenges faced by men and women who are sexually abused or harassed, and urges St. David's to do the right thing and stand by the people it includes in its community.
- (4) Other independent schools have dealt with sexual abuse by teachers in positive and creative ways (Milton, Deerfield, and Andover for example). The fact that a highly esteemed school such as St. David's apparently values its endowment more than its students is significant; its stated mission is at odds with its actions.

**Our hope is that media attention will help St. David's to recognize its moral and ethical responsibility** to support those men damaged by the institution in the past, and to make amends by working to help them, and to educate its students about sexism, child abuse, and the ethics the school espouses in words, but apparently not yet in actions. St. David's recently held a lavish fundraiser at The Plaza with the theme "Behind The Mask." Our hope is that St. David's comes out from behind its mask and acknowledges past

harms instead of trying to cover up and ignore sexual abuse the way the Catholic Church has done in major cases in recent years.

## **St. David's School Basic Information**

### *Mission Statement:*

*Founded as an independent school in 1951 by nine Catholic families, Saint David's remains committed to the teachings of the Church. Our community includes boys and faculty of many religious backgrounds. Boys are taught to respect and learn from all religious traditions, to recognize their own capacity for spiritual experience, and to develop strong moral values. Saint David's is a true community, known for its sense of family, compassion and kindness. The tradition of the school affirms that elementary education is important in its own right and should always be compelling, joyful, and designed to serve self, others, and God.*

### Contact Information:

St. David's School

12 East 89<sup>th</sup> St.

New York, NY

Phone: 212-369-0058

Headmaster David O'Halloran [dohalloran@saintdavids.org](mailto:dohalloran@saintdavids.org)

Assistant Head Alexis Aoyama [aaaoyama@saintdavids.org](mailto:aaaoyama@saintdavids.org)

Facts about St. David's from website

(<https://www.saintdavids.org/about>)

Saint David's is an independent elementary school for boys of all faiths and backgrounds whose parents seek a school program rooted in the moral and theological traditions of the Catholic Church. Boys are admitted to Pre-Kindergarten through Grade Eight.

Since its founding in 1951, Saint David's has graduated more than 2,000

students. They have gone on to the most competitive New York City secondary schools and regional boarding schools, and from there to ranking universities and colleges throughout the nation.

The school is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, subscribing to its Principles of Good Practice for admission of students. Saint David's also belongs to the Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater New York.

### The School

- Founded in 1951 as an elementary school for boys in the Catholic tradition
- Grades Pre-K through 8
- Approximately 400 students and 138 faculty and staff
- Exceptional faculty: 72% with advanced degrees; 71% with 10-plus years of teaching experience; 38% have been at Saint David's for 10-plus years.
- Low student-teacher ratios
- Facilities: Three Gymnasiums (one middle school regulation size), Performing Arts Center, Upper and Lower School Libraries, STEAM Suite, Three Lunchrooms, Learning Center.
- Robust After School program with classes in a variety of disciplines
- Tuition for 2019-2020 Pre-K: \$33,270 Kindergarten through Grade 8: \$49,890
- **Endowment:** 69 funds valued at \$70 million

### Philosophy

- Ultimate aspiration: "that they be good men."
- Classical tradition of "balance in all things"
- Four pillars: Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Spirituality

### Academics

- Most current educational research incorporated to maximize learning and understanding, through the school-wide *Curriculum Initiative*
- Rigorous academic pursuit promoted through active learning and engagement via field trips, **partnerships with educational institutions** such as the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the Cold Spring

Harbor DNA Learning Center, interdisciplinary learning, and common teaching framework

- **Technology** incorporated thoughtfully throughout the curriculum in every grade
- Public speaking and skills associated with rhetoric and oral presentation emphasized at all grade levels
- Spanish immersion in Pre-K through Grade 8; French and Latin programs offered
- Hands-on STEAM classes such as the Nerdy Derby in Grade 3, DNA unit in Grades 5 and 8 through our partnership with the Cold Spring Harbor DNA Learning Center, and the Digital Universe Flight School unit in Grade 6 through our partnership with the American Museum of Natural History
- Emphasis placed on concept of an extended campus through overnight experiences in Frost Valley, NY; Cape Cod, MA; Washington, D.C.; Salamanca, Spain; and Rome and Florence, Italy
- Significant support for faculty professional development opportunities
- Seeks to create responsible lifelong learners who are reflective and respect differences

### Arts

- "Critical Eye" and "Critical Mind" cultivated so that boys can critically evaluate the world around them
- Emphasis on manners and social graces
- Boys taught to seek the truth, beauty, and, ultimately, the good
- Art classes in painting, drawing, woodworking, and pottery in 4 dedicated art rooms
- Music program includes First Orchestra (Grades 1 through 3), Philharmonic and Percussion Ensembles (Grades 4 through 8), Chamber Singers (Grades 4 through 8), Recorder Consorts (Grades 6 through 8), and opportunities for individual instruction
- School-wide Art and Music Festivals held in winter and spring
- Dramatic and musical performances by all boys in all grades

### Athletics

- Soccer, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, hockey, squash, cross country, tennis, track and field, flag football
- Member of Manhattan Private Middle School League
- Three on-site gyms
- Fitness facility with state-of-art electronic fitness equipment
- Stresses "skill and sportsmanship"

### Spirituality

- Reflection upon the moral and ethical in all aspects of a boy's school day
- Daily Chapels, with talks given by faculty and alumni
- Contribution to the greater good with action through several **community service programs**
- Teachings of the Catholic faith used as a lens through which boys examine a moral/ethical life
- Exposure to worldwide religious traditions in class
- Sacraments offered to Catholic boys