



Thursday  
Sept. 10, 2020

Dear SJB Families,

I am writing to assure our families that there are no covid-19 cases at St. John the Baptist, contrary to a report tonight by NBC4.

The NBC4 report about investigations into covid-19 at private schools featured video footage of the St. John the Baptist sign and front entrance over a news cutline that read, "Montgomery County Officials Concerned After New Outbreaks at Private Schools." NBC4 could not explain why images of the school, including the school sign, were featured in the report about covid-19 cases. The editor first said he would ask the producer to remove the school's image from the piece and later said he would ask the producer to add a retraction.

Catholic Schools Secretary Kelly Branaman and I spoke this evening. The Archdiocese of Washington has also made contact with NBC4 on our behalf. I'll update when I have more information.

Twenty SJB faculty members and parent volunteers worked over the summer to plan and prepare CDC safeguards for the reopening of St. John the Baptist Catholic School. The school reopening plan was submitted and approved by the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington and the Montgomery County Health Department after inspectors visited the school and reviewed the covid-19 plan.

Respectfully and Faithfully,

Brian Blomquist  
Principal  
St. John the Baptist Catholic School  
Silver Spring, Md.

