



Maclay Families,

I know it has been an active summer for all of us. I do hope all of you have enjoyed some time away from the academic year and now that the 90+ degree days have returned; it is almost time for the school year to begin. As many of you know, we have been working all summer in preparation for transitioning back into our academic year. For the last two months, the campus has been open and bustling. Our normal summer school operations and summer programs brought about 80 employees and up to 400 students on campus each week. This has enabled us to be far more prepared than many of our peers who are starting from scratch to re-open. Your Maclay team has been working through guidelines and writing new policies and procedures to make our launch a successful one that honors the guidelines and prepares our community for a challenging school year.

There is a Churchill quote that I believe is very fitting and appropriate for what we face together and what I must ask of each of you. In a perilous time, he said to his countrymen, “This is no time for ease and comfort, it is a time to dare and endure.” You have heard me mention our partnership together many times before. Never does our partnership mean as much as it will this year. It will not only focus on providing for what is best for your child, but your responsibility to our entire community. I’ve talked to many of you and know that you have already adjusted your lives and behaviors to adapt in this new reality. As we transition back to our school routines, we will be counting on you to do your part as a family. Your assistance and cooperation will make a huge difference in our ability to keep our campus open to best serve all our Maclay families day in and day out. We do have students, parents, teachers, and family members with underlying health issues, so we share the responsibility to care for the greater community’s well-being. Now more than ever, we appreciate your commitment to our community and one another’s health.

One way to think about this partnership is below:

Maclay School’s commitment:

- Our priority is to protect the health and safety of students and faculty/staff.
- We will deliver the highest quality, uninterrupted educational services to our students, whether it takes place on-campus or off-campus.
- We will use our experience, local medical experts, the Florida Department of Health, and CDC guidelines in constructing and adjusting our plans.
- We will provide clear expectations for staff, students, and families, many of which have already been shared and posted on www.maclay.org/covid-19
- We will communicate often to share updates on our protocols and also any trends which we may be experiencing in our community.
- We will remain flexible and adaptable.

Families Commitment:

- Maclay School will request that each family be fully familiar with their division's guidelines, protocols, and safety measures outlined, as our partnership is more important than ever.
- Parents will be expected to screen their child(ren) EVERY MORNING for the complete symptom list and communicate openly and honestly with the Maclay Clinic so we can safely monitor the health of our community.
- Parents will be asked to adhere to and support school guidelines concerning health measures and communication with the school's leadership.
- Parents join the school in understanding the amount of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty that exists in our community. Extra measures of compassion, empathy, grace, and patience will be needed from everyone.
- Families are asked to be especially careful of their travel and exposure outside of the academic day. The ability to be on campus heavily relies on everyone's mindfulness of those they come into close contact with.

The Centers for Disease Control has also developed [tools](#) for you as parents to aid in your decision to return to campus and your support of a healthy Maclay Community. There are many additional resources on their site to help you prepare your entire family as we begin the year. The CDC guidance is our 'north star'. If you use their guidance, we will be speaking the same language as we work with your children. If you have not already, please begin having conversations with your child about their responsibilities and the 3W's - wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance. This will be part of our message so your support and reinforcement will be vital – and the sooner, the better.

As we approach the two-week mark of welcoming everyone back to campus, we all need to begin what we are calling our 'distance diary'. It is a new expectation for us all to be conscious of our distance from others, what we are touching, and where we are traveling. Fourteen days is an important time frame in the CDC guidance. Wednesday begins the mark when our behavior has the potential to impact the school, like never before. As Churchill said, this is not the time for ease and comfort. Regardless of our individual views on the virus or how it is being handled...the Maclay community is depending on you. Thank you for stepping up alongside me to this challenge. Thank you all for your trust in our work and enduring through a time we will all remember because we struggled through it together.

Please enjoy the remainder of the summer and send along any questions as they pop up.

James

One additional thing,

Last week was an important week for collecting data. We asked you for some feedback on your thoughts to the start of school and we received feedback on families' intentions to return to campus or take part in the Concurrent Virtual Classroom. We are still working with about 30 families to secure their intention but below is the current count. Keep in mind, this is dynamic and will most likely change before the school year begins, but this will give you an idea of what we know now.

- 759 students will begin the year On-Campus
- 153 students will begin the year in the Concurrent Virtual Classroom
- 33 students have not responded yet.

This leaves us at 16% of students currently utilizing the Virtual Concurrent Classroom Model at the start of the year.



MACLAY.ORG

3737 North Meridian Rd. | Tallahassee, FL 32312 | 850-893-2138

