



Maclay Community,

I must say this has been a long week on the Maclay campus and within our community. This week saw the return of all our Lower School students, the rapid expansion of outdoor options for our students, and the inevitable COVID cases among our community. I am very proud of our team who responded well after each case notification and followed recommended procedures through contact tracing and notification of students and families of those determined to be close contacts and those who had possible exposures. These cases were limited to the Upper School and in only one case was a student in class during the contact tracing period. All parents and students involved have been very understanding and have been supportive of the action we must take to respond to these cases. We will be releasing a resource early next week to go deeper into the process of a response to a Covid case in our community.

Last week I mentioned that we would be in a pressure test phase as a school for a few weeks and we certainly went through that with our Covid response this week. Even though I am amazingly proud of our internal response and working with these families, we were uneven in communicating the right information within our own broader community. I regret this and we are committed to getting this right moving forward. We are a community built on trust and its foundation is communication. So, we will continue to work on this, and I promise we will continually get better, following one of our guiding principles of continual improvement.

Looking forward, we anxiously anticipate inviting our Middle School students back to full capacity next week. The Middle School team has been hard at work preparing their spaces and procedures to provide a safe educational environment for your students. In the Upper School, we have extended the Blue/White schedule for an additional two weeks. We have been actively working with Upper School students to follow the three Ws on campus, but we also acknowledge the highly mobile and social nature of our students and given that, we are going to keep the Upper School at 50% a little longer as we continue to educate on how out of social activity impacts the ability of the school to function inside the Covid framework. This will not be the first or last time you will hear this encouragement, it is all of our responsibility to keep our community safe. There are a couple of things I strongly encourage you to do:

- Be extra vigilant in monitoring symptoms DAILY.

- Do not allow your child to attend parties, large social gatherings, or other get-togethers that bring kids together in large, unsupervised numbers.
- The importance of the 3Ws extend beyond our gates, please be diligent with these practices.
- I strongly encourage you to utilize our Concurrent Virtual Classroom if you have any concerns over potential exposure. We specifically designed our virtual model to as closely as possible align with the on-campus classes in anticipation of potential and frequent movement in and out of the classroom.

We have a firm grasp of how we need to respond to the virus on campus, but we will need everyone doing their part to ensure we can continue to 'do school' the way we want. Being on campus is a privilege we offer; it must be earned by actions on and off campus.

From a student standpoint, there is an overwhelming feeling of joy in returning and being with their friends. The students have worn their masks well, washing hands or disinfecting, and getting better at distancing every day. This desire to stay in school and on campus has been a wonderful motivation to follow the protocols, and their joy is what is keeping my team going. Even in times as taxing as these, your gifted faculty are doing great work in the classroom for you.

Please pass along any feedback, questions, or concerns you have. We remain committed to delivering a great experience for your child(ren) and family and even when we fall short, we will always try harder the next time.

Gratefully yours,

James Milford



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