



Maclay Families,

I would never claim to be a historian, but certainly a student of the great leaders who came before us. One president I have read much about, Teddy Roosevelt, once said, “We must dare to be great, and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage.” Roosevelt has many fans and many critics but if there is one thing that can be agreed upon, is his unending curiosity and drive. As we, the Maclay community sit amid societal unrest, a pandemic, economic uncertainty...a time when there seem to be more questions than answers...I am proud to be working with our community of faculty, students, and parents who toil together to define our greatness, continue being courageous, and pour all we have into our students with a curiosity and drive akin to Roosevelt’s. It doesn’t take a long conversation with my faculty to hear their commitment to our students and see them doing all they can to make this year the best it can be. I’m proud of them, I’m proud of our students, and I’m grateful for your trust and support.

If you are tied into the higher education conversation either here in Tallahassee or across the nation you know institutions are actively trying to manage the pandemic on their campuses after students returned. This proves to be a truly difficult situation to manage with boarding campuses. Seeing the Herculean task of these siblings in education, we should all be reminded that our success as a school and our ability to ‘do school’ the way we desire falls on each of our shoulders. I have been inspired by your support, understanding, and willingness to adjust to make sure your children can have a great experience at Maclay. As we enter a long weekend, I remind us all to make good choices, remember the three W’s are effective strategies wherever you go, and for goodness sake, have fun and get some rest!

When we return from the long weekend on the 8th we will be at full capacity in each division. As you can see from the dashboard, depending on the division, we have anywhere from 20%-33% of our students choosing the concurrent virtual classroom model. Now that we are a few weeks in, hopefully most of the kinks have been worked out and everyone is more comfortable with the inevitable technical issues that will pop up from time to time. Our team continues troubleshooting on campus and we will remain responsive throughout the year to maximize this vital connection between home and classroom.

Health care on campus has been routine with a laser focus on each symptom and case. Last year, there were up to 70 visits to the clinic per day. These range from skinned knees, tummy aches, bug bites, you name it...Nurse Teems probably has a story for it. What we have seen are typical seasonal illnesses with symptoms similar to COVID symptoms. We have had students and faculty stay home due to these symptoms. Everything from strep, to the common cold, to stomach bugs have been the

culprit. We are a tight community and information travels fast, so I wanted to reaffirm our protocols to notify you directly when a positive COVID case is identified in any way connected to your child or family here on campus. We explain this in detail on the Playbook we released last week, and it is also referenced on the Dashboard we update regularly.

I hope you all enjoy a long weekend as we have the first few weeks of the school year behind us. When we return, the pace will pick up a little as we settle into the rhythm of the year. We should never forget to anticipate disruption throughout this year, but I can promise we have the best model to provide for an uninterrupted education and experience for your family. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and continual kind words for my team as they strive to be the best.

Be safe & wash your hands!

James



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