



Maclay Community,

As we tie up week seven of the school year and enjoy a slight cooling off, I wanted to extend my thank you's to everyone. We all have been working through our individual orientation to COVID restrictions over the past six months and especially focused on how to support the work of the School. On campus, we absolutely feel this support, and I can't tell you how much it means to my team. We are only beginning this journey, and just like any other thing worth having; it takes work. We remain committed and responsive to continuing to grow, tweak, adjust, adapt, and in some cases, evolve into a school that will continue to thrive in and after this current unpleasantness.

Today, I want to take a detour from COVID-focused conversations and celebrate the culmination of a few years of work and a dream that is over a decade old. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." This idea of individual dreams and finding ways to fulfill them is central to our mission at Maclay, and something we pride ourselves on how our system enables students to be themselves, find confidence in their path and achieve success. In addition to individual dreams, the School has also had a shared dream of a science center that would match our students' ambition and accomplishments.

Over three years ago, we began the work of answering the question of how to best meet the needs and interests of our students in this age of rapid innovation. We adjusted our focus and improved our visual resolution of the goals of what preparation for college and life need to be, igniting our students' unique interests, and building learners who are resilient and unstoppable. The [iTHINK Initiative](#) was launched to help guide our conversations and programs to become more flexible, focus on the talent in our broader community, and stimulate innovative thoughts and practices. The mindset this conversation fostered was critical to our ability to adapt to the new landscape COVID required, and the resiliency and dedication of our faculty continue to lead us down this pathway.

The next month will see the opening of the "New Science Building." The Beck Family Innovation Center is so much more than simply new science labs. It is the physical expression of our investment in the future of our students. Our youngest Marauders will be graduating from Maclay in 2035, and this gives us a unique opportunity and an enormous responsibility to always be thinking forward and giving our students both an advantage among their contemporaries and platform to be great.

Our current restrictions will delay the impact the [Beck Family Innovation Center](#) will have on all grades, but as its new classrooms and offices are open over the next several weeks, the Upper School students will be able to utilize the spaces that will provide larger

and safer classrooms, additional study areas, a school store, and new homes for the Upper School administration as well as our College Counseling office. The building was designed to host Lower and Middle School events and shift the epicenter of campus as a new hub of activity.

This project would never have been possible without years of dedicated faculty building a program that warranted a home worthy of their work, the leadership of the Board of Trustees and their vision to ensure the School continues to be a leader in our region, and the generosity of our donors who all gave sacrificially to impact your children and our shared future. One quote stands out to me from the Beck family, "...if it inspires but one Maclay young mind to go forth and do great things it will be an unqualified success."

We will work over the next month to have all students take part in the expanded space because it is theirs. In a time when we cannot host large receptions and celebrate this opening together as a school, I simply could not let this moment pass without sharing how proud I am of our School, and our community for being able to accomplish a project that has been and will continue to impact Maclay for years to come.

In parting, please make sure you are all taking care of yourselves. We talk a great deal with the students about making sure they are making good decisions with their minds and hearts. We are all stronger when we are together and performing at our best. So, don't neglect the important things. Always remember, our people (you) are what make us great. Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Maclay Family.

James



MACLAY SCHOOL
Be Inspired. Be Determined. Be Unstoppable.



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