



My Maclay Families,

After last year's start, I would not have imagined it would be week three of the school year before we had a full 5-day school week. If it is not one thing, it's another...this time, Tropical Storm Fred gave us an extra vacation day. Other than Covid and Fred, we have had a somewhat normal start to the school year. What is always reassuring and encouraging is the resiliency of our community. The students dropped right back into their routines, and even though life gives you challenges, our students know their responsibilities and how to care for each other. Our focus has been and remains to deliver an uninterrupted experience here on campus, and we continue to trust in our model.

Briefly, I wanted to give you an update on COVID on campus. We started the year with the anticipated quarantines from pre-start-of-school cases but have seen fewer positive cases and quarantines this year than we saw last year at this time. We remain vigilant and ask you to continue to do so. Our process for containing and mitigating class disruption has served us well, and even though we know this is going to be a long road, we are well equipped to sustain through the ups and downs. As a reminder, anytime there is a case on campus, and your child has a direct or indirect potential for exposure in a classroom or elsewhere on campus, we will notify you directly as soon as we learn of it.

We are holding onto our current masking policy for the time being. We are encouraged by our on-campus data but are still watching the hospital and local data. There are many variables we are monitoring, but with such a strong start, I'm not inclined to adjust the system right now. This is a continual conversation on my team, and we will begin relaxing this policy in the Upper School when the time is right. In the meantime, for all grades, we are maximizing outdoor time where masks are optional. We are fortunate to have 100 acres to enjoy, and we can certainly feel the positive difference between last year and this one.

We are actively discussing and planning alternative events during and after the school day so our parents can get back onto campus in meaningful ways. I feel the disappointment, especially in the lower grades, from our families who customarily have strong personal connections with their homeroom teachers and are available to be 'hands on' with their child's class. Even though we have to extend our virtual options longer than we would like, we are being creative in ways to bring you back onto campus so you can engage (albeit outdoors), with your child's teachers and friends. Look for communication from your Division Director on these opportunities.

Until we see you again, know how much my team and I appreciate your kind words of understanding and support as we navigate another extraordinary year.

Your Head of School,

James



MACLAY SCHOOL
Be Inspired. Be Determined. Be Unstoppable.



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