



My Maclay Families,

It is hard to believe that we are ending the fourth week of our school year. It has been a great start, and even though there are the inevitable adjustments related to a new school year, I believe we are all settling into our routines, and the normal drumbeat of the school is back to a predictable rhythm. I encourage each of you to keep a watchful eye on the news that comes out each Monday as well as your division announcements for opportunities and changes along the way.

If you watch the local news, you see that schools across our region are having a hard time delivering a predictable and uninterrupted education for their students. Since schools have opened, we have seen districts close, pause, or try to re-instate some semblance of a virtual option because their quarantines overwhelm their system. At times, only the most extreme cases make it to the news, but I can assure you the struggle in all schools to have stability in their staffing is real. This point is what I need everyone in the Maclay community to remember as the key driving factor of why we make the decisions we make. Variables such as masks, vaccines, CDC guidelines/opinions, and various data points in our community inform our decisions but protecting and providing for the high level of teaching from my faculty and staff is of paramount importance. We all acknowledge that COVID protocols have introduced unpleasant realities like masks, seating charts, and quarantines. These are the sacrifices we must make to have the confidence to show up to school each day and receive a great education. So, as we continue through the journey that may feel like a slog that will never end, we continue to believe that giving the students a predictable and uninterrupted experience is what keeps their lives stable, which builds confidence, and enables the best environment for learning.

Due to changes in our program and accessibility to data in the state, we are targeting our Covid Dashboard only on confirmed active cases in each division. The Dashboard can be found in your Division's FACTS Announcement Pages and will be updated at least weekly. As a reminder, for the last 15 months, our rapid response to every COVID case on campus ensures those determined to be close contact exposures and anyone in the vicinity of a known positive case in the critical transmission period is notified directly and quickly. You can find detailed information on our protocols [here](#). This individualized and proactive communication strategy has been one of the critical features of our response that aids in keeping our numbers low and our on-campus transmission rate to zero. For all the families who have had to deal with a quarantine last and this year, a huge thank you for your understanding and solidarity in allowing us to keep the school running with minimum disruptions.

We continue to have conversations internally about opt-out options on campus, group events, and upcoming trips. I still hold onto hope that we will see a retreat in the numbers soon, and we will be able to relax some of our protocols. Even though it is not time for that yet, we are talking with many other schools about how they are using creative ways to offer protection and a sense of normalcy.

With my team, I speak of August as a sprint, and we are now transitioning into the marathon pace for the year. We are busy with event and trip planning and enjoyed a grill out for the Upper School on Monday complete with a typical Tallahassee downpour five minutes before serving...good fun. A big thank you to our parent volunteers and the Grill-Master. We will be doing more of these for the other divisions as well as bringing back some of the options that bring you back to campus during the school day. I'm glad to see opportunities for you to engage returning and look forward to operating a more open campus as we move forward. We are READY to return to normal, and I will lead the way there as quickly as we can do so.

Again, thank you all for the kind words, volunteerism, support, and all the hard work it

takes to build a community that is inspired, determined, and unstoppable.

Yours,

James



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Be Inspired. Be Determined. Be Unstoppable.



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