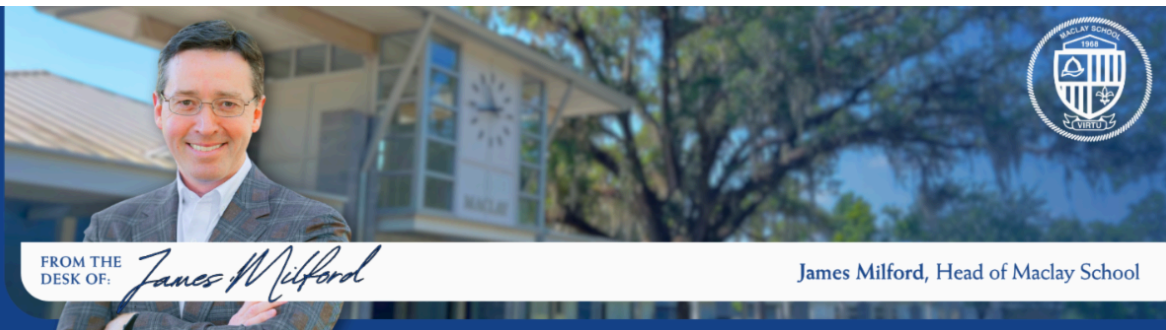




My Maclay Community,

I welcome you back from a spring break that has allowed us all to pause, reflect, recharge, and ready ourselves for the remainder of this school year. Spring at a school contains some of the busiest times for students and parents. The arts bring year-end performances, and the spring season is packed with games and playoffs, just as many summative assessments culminate in our classrooms. The great part about the Maclay experience is that these opportunities are thoughtfully designed, and we do our best to allow our students to develop to their fullest potential with a balance of discipline and freedom. As the saying goes, “Build your habits, and your habits will build you.” We kicked off this year by focusing on the family partnership and have been deliberate in our communication to strengthen it, because our collective interest is in the most important person in your lives: *your child*.

We entered this year with several ambitious goals that have shaped both this school year and how we are structuring a few things moving forward. In response to the shifting landscape of college admissions, we have placed considerable resources and focus on mathematics, SAT preparation, and broadening college preparation conversations into the middle school years. With a clear understanding of the skills and mindsets students need to navigate both the college admission process and the opportunities that follow, we have designed a thoughtful, year-long approach through our 6th Grade Academy. This program builds intentionally on the strong foundation developed in Lower School and ensures students are well prepared as they enter 7th grade, when many begin earning Upper School credit.

We are also excited to introduce a new K–6 math curriculum that culminates in strong foundational math skills, ensuring every student is equipped with the confidence and competence needed for long-term success. Paired with strategic alignment between the Middle and Upper Schools, this approach strengthens our rigorous college-preparatory program while reinforcing the habits, discipline, and mindset required for both academic excellence and personal growth.

In the coming weeks, as we approach summer, depending on your child’s class, you will receive information about programs designed to enhance the experience of everyone involved. We will continue to work hard to communicate clearly and transparently as answers become available, and we appreciate that one of the reasons you chose Maclay is our independence and our ability to be more nimble than other schools, meet our students and families where they are, and design programs that help each student get to where he or she needs to be.

I would be remiss if I did not take time to thank and recognize our dedicated faculty and volunteers who make Maclay what it is. I celebrate with them the many accomplishments of both our students and our school, whether it is unlocking of hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional scholarships through increased SAT scores, an expanding number of experiential trips funded by generous donors, award-winning arts programs and publications, our strong participation and postseason success in athletics, the impact our school makes through the Better Together food insecurity work, or the countless personal victories and signature moments created by the 1,300 Marauders who work and learn on our campus each day.

Over the next two months, you will see the beginning of site work for the Indoor Practice Facility, the Webster Center turned for our beloved community tradition, the 44th annual Maclay Auction, and countless end-of-year events, all ending with our commencement exercises in late May for the Class of 2026. Thank you again for your support, trust, and partnership as we continue to embrace our charge to provide the best educational experience possible for our families.

Warmly,

James



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