

MACLAY SCHOOL

from the desk of *Bentley Harris*
Bentley Harris, Director of Maclay Lower School
www.maclay.org



Dear Lower School Families,

I hope your summer has been filled with opportunities to slow down, make memories, and enjoy time together. As August approaches, our faculty and staff are eagerly preparing to welcome your family back to campus for another wonderful year of learning, growth, and joy.

At Maclay, we know the strongest school years begin with strong relationships. Our hope is that every child feels known, valued, challenged, and excited to come to school each day. Every decision we make, from the way we design learning experiences to the way we partner with families, is grounded in that belief.

Preparing for the First week of School

Connection Days

Connection Days will be held on **Friday, August 7, and Monday, August 10**. These 25-minute meetings are designed to help families begin the school year feeling connected, confident, and known before the first day. On Monday, July 27, families will receive an email to sign up for a Connection Day appointment, and homeroom placements for students in first through fifth grade will become available in the Veracross Parent Portal. [Learn more details about Connection Day here.](#)

During Connection Days, the **Back-to-School Fair** will be in Langford Hall. There will be booths for Kids Club, Marauder Meals, Technology, plus cheerleaders, ambassadors, and more. Please take time to go to the Fair between 9:00am and 2:30pm.

First Day of School

The first day of school is **Wednesday, August 12**. We cannot wait to welcome students back to campus!

Back-to-School Information

Our Back-to-School webpage includes everything you'll need to prepare for a successful start, including classroom supply lists, important dates, school forms, arrival and dismissal information, Kids Club details, and other helpful resources, including a new drop-off/pick-up option for uniform embroidery.

Back-to-School Forms

The Back-to-School Forms are available in your Veracross Family Portal. Please log in to your portal to complete the forms and click on Magnus Health to complete the required clinic forms.

Parent Back-to-School Night

Please save the date for Tuesday, September 8. Parent Back-to-School Night is an opportunity to hear from your child's teachers, learn about classroom routines and curriculum, and begin our partnership for the year ahead.

A Few Things We're Excited About This Year

Strengthening Mathematics Instruction

This year, we are excited to launch our new Primary Mathematics curriculum in Kindergarten through fifth grade, providing students with rich opportunities to develop mathematical thinking and confidence. In Pre-K 3, students build foundational number and shape concepts through hands-on, play-based learning aligned with our Pre-K 4 curriculum. In Pre-K 4, teachers use the Methodology curriculum, which prepares students for the Singapore Mathematics approach introduced in Kindergarten through Primary Mathematics. If you were unable to attend our spring mathematics workshop for parents, you can access the recording using the link below. The page is password-protected. (Password: Math2026!)

<https://vimeo.com/1188475182?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Strengthening handwriting and fine motor development

This year, we are introducing *Handwriting Without Tears* to strengthen handwriting and fine motor skills across the Lower School. By teaching consistent letter formation and efficient writing habits, we're helping students build confidence and fluency that will benefit them in every classroom.

Strengthening school connections

This year marks the third year of our Lower School Community Meetings, a cherished Friday tradition where students gather to celebrate accomplishments, connect across grade levels, and share in music, movement, and meaningful experiences. Alongside daily Responsive Classroom Morning Meetings, these experiences help foster confidence, kindness, and a strong sense of community.

Looking Forward

The Lower School is a place where joyful childhood and meaningful learning go hand in hand. Whether your child is joining us for the very first time or preparing for the exciting transition to middle school next year, we are committed to creating an environment where every student can discover their strengths, build confidence, and grow into thoughtful, capable young people.

Pre-K Families will receive a separate email from Mrs. Houston with more specific information later today.

Thank you for the trust you place in us each day. It is a privilege to partner with your family, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to campus very soon.

Warmly,

Bentley Harris

Lower School Director

[Back-to-School Info Page](#)

[Summer Work](#)

Veracross Family Portal

LS Links Page



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