Dear Maclay Families,

The one thing that has been consistent throughout the pandemic over the last 18 months has been that it is nothing has been predictable or easy. We have focused on providing an ‘uninterrupted education for our students and supporting our faculty to the best of our ability. Today, that remains our goal.

Over the last few weeks, we, along with all of you, have watched the concerning numbers of COVID in our community. We shifted our plans in Lower School to offer a mask-preferred class in each grade giving parents an option of having their child with mostly other students who choose to wear face covering. We find ourselves again evaluating the current data, parent desires, and faculty feedback to offer additional short-term option for our students.

Last year’s Concurrent Virtual Program (CVC) was a success, but it did come with a lot of challenges and was often a difficult, especially our Lower School faculty to find a balance for developmentally appropriate virtual education with in-person students. Our teachers were and are amazing, but their connection to our students and families is what makes our School the wonderful place that it is.

The Middle and the Upper School, where most students have a choice to be vaccinated, will have a limited option to opt-in to CVC classes if they meet the set criteria. The best example would be a student needing to be quarantined. This will be a mandatory 2-week period that must be pre-approved by the division director. For the guidelines on Middle and Upper School CVC click here.

For our Kindergarten through 6th grade, with no option to vaccinate, we will offer a limited CVC option that allows students to take core classes virtually from home until they are vaccinated. There will not be 2-week option this year and special areas will not be included. Due to the major undertaking of class placement, scheduling, teacher preparation, and school starting August 11th, any requests for this CVC option must be made by Saturday, July 31st at midnight. We will not offer CVC in the PreK.

Please read through the guidelines for the Lower School CVC thoroughly. If it is something that you wish to commit your child to, you must respond by Saturday, July 31st here.

It is our hope to return to a normal, happy, healthy Maclay School in the near future. Our safety protocols for hand washing, sanitizing, the air purification systems in each classroom, social distancing where possible for the unvaccinated, contact tracing, outdoor classrooms, and partnership with area medical advisors will all remain and will continue be a vital part of our mitigation strategies to provide a safe environment for our students.

Draft LS response survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3FNVJQ>