



My Maclay Families,

It is hard to believe we are already to March 2021. Today is 354 days since we dismissed for spring break last year, and what a journey it has been. I'm so very proud of my team, my students, and you, as we have figured it out together along the way. As I tell every family that visits in the admission process, we do not claim to be perfect, but we will continually try to get better and will never take our focus off providing the best educational experience for our students.

I know it is technically still winter, but the Tallahassee weather is greeting us all with nice spring days. While keeping our protocols in place, we are enjoying a slow expansion of activities on campus that has brought back a sense of community and reminds us of the special place Maclay holds in our families' lives. Performances and athletics are tiptoeing back into something that looks like a normal spring, and we can tell the students are enjoying it. We will continue to be very careful with our COVID protocols, but with most activities moving outside as the weather improves and the added comfort of an ever-expanding vaccine rollout, we can see confidence slowly returning.

Last week, we saw local schools had adjusted their quarantine protocols to a shorter timeframe, but we are not at a point where we are comfortable adjusting our protocols. We encourage everyone to remain vigilant and support the continuation of our methods of keeping your child's experience as uninterrupted as possible. We are already designing next year's mitigation and virtual strategies and observing with great interest the moves being made by other institutions of learning in the region and in higher education. We have great hope that next year will be much more of a transition back to normal than this year has been able to be.

A few quick notes of thanks and information:

- Thank you to all who participated and supported our Giving Day in mid-February. All donated dollars at Maclay go to provide support for the initiatives and programs that move the school beyond what the annual budget alone can do.
- Congratulations to all winter sports teams. Not all seasons ended as the players or coaches may have wanted, but the expert mentoring and teammate relationships built have enduring value beyond anything wins and losses could ever create.
- Congratulations to the Middle School Math Team for their performance at the Perennial Math Competition last weekend, participants and winners in the Capital Regional Science and Engineering Fair, as well as the winners at the National History Day who all qualified for the state competition.
- A special thanks, once again, to our faculty who continue to adjust and deliver day in and day out. This has been an extraordinary year and considering that almost half of the students in the nation are still not fully back in brick-and-mortar school, I consider them a blessing to all of our students...mine included.
- As we continue through our enrollment season, I wanted to thank many of you for the referrals, well wishes, support calls, and connections you have helped with. Going into this admission season, we were unsure of what to expect. We have found our numbers to be stronger than expected, and we are considering

expanding some sections to ensure we are continuing to deliver the expert individualized attention you have grown to expect. Virtual meetings have enabled us to maintain connections and share our student and parent experiences in ways we have never been able to before. I'm inspired each time I hear one of our Student Ambassadors tell the details of their journey here. They are seldom straight lines, but the outcomes are exceptional. It reminds me of the charge of our mission and our promise to you.

- It seems a little early to be talking about the summer, but based on the enrollment in our summer programs, many of you are already making those plans. We currently have 171 offerings this summer so as you make your plans for June and July, check out www.maclaycamps.com to see if anything may enhance your child's summer experience.
- The final note is a thank you for your patience. This year has created a distance that is uncommon to many of us. As I share in each of my Admission Open Houses, I measure success in three ways. They are: Connections, Recognition, and a Growing Sense of Mastery. This is always in the background as we design and support programs here. In the school's relationship with you, I acknowledge the connection part has been a struggle this year. We are already talking internally about how we can strengthen those as we move forward into this spring and the fall.

Again, thank you all for your support, trust, patience, ideas, snacks, well-wishes, smiles, thumbs-up, and the help with costumes last week during Marauder Madness. This is truly a great place to be.

Yours,

James



MACLAY SCHOOL
Be Inspired. Be Determined. Be Unstoppable.



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