



June 11, 2018

Dear Honor Roll Student,

Here is a funny story that surely doesn't belong to anyone on this honor roll list. A struggling student came to his math teacher to ask what grade on the hundred point final exam they would need to pass. The teacher inputted some information in the grading program and said, "Well, you would need to score 113 to get a D." The student thought for a minute and responded, "What score would I need to score to get a C?"

You are receiving this letter because this did not happen to you. For the second semester 2017-18 you earned the honor roll. You met and exceeded your teacher's expectations through attentiveness, diligence, and curiosity.

I expect that earning this honor roll did mean you struggled. I am glad for that because, while in hindsight things sometimes look easy, I would remind you that real success often comes only after failure and learning new ways to work. Let me illustrate this with a couple of famous examples.

Marie Curie who discovered two chemical elements and helped apply x-ray to medical applications failed often. As a woman she often had to have men present and publish her work. As a Polish woman living in France in the 1800s, she was considered a second-class citizen and scientist. However, just as with her experiments, she knew the way of progress was never easy, and later she said, "I never yield to any difficulties."

Einstein, who most people think of when they say *genius*, did not speak until he was four, read until he was seven, and generally was an average student. What these great thinkers and you both share, I hope, is great determination to learn and a genuine curiosity about how the world works.

As we at Menaul School learn to live into our new tagline, *World Smart*, may I challenge you to live a life that overcomes challenges, seeks to learn constantly, and embraces differences wholeheartedly.

Congratulations on earning the second semester honor roll!

Love and blessings!

Mr. Lindsey R. Gilbert, Jr.  
President and Head of School