



HEAD OF SCHOOL'S OFFICE

301 MENAUL BLVD. NE | ALBUQUERQUE, NM | 87107
505.345.7725 | FAX 505.344.2517

www.menaulschool.com

The concept of ambition has gotten a bad rap. Unfortunately most often when people use the word ambition, it has a negative connotation. For example, the phrase “he is ambitious” is often interpreted to mean as that the person is a “climber” and unscrupulous in their efforts to achieve.

While I agree that ambition can have a negative side, I submit to you that ambition is a good thing, and that very little good in this world gets accomplished without an ambitious person or group of people working to achieve it. Humorist and author Frank Tyson said, “Ambition is enthusiasm with a purpose.” I am writing you this note because you clearly have some significant ambition as you have earned the Honor Roll for third quarter in the 2011-2012 school year. I suggest you answer a couple of questions for yourself

- Regarding why you are ambitious to earn good grades:
- Do I like the recognition?
- Do I enjoy learning?
- Are my good grades to build my future?
- Do I do it to make my parents/siblings/grandparents happy?

I am not here to question your reasons to achieve but to help you become aware of what motivates you.

Further, I am going to suggest that your ambition grow new wings. Apply your God given gifts to healthy ambitions. As a way of exemplifying this concept – let me tell you some of my healthy ambitions:

- I am ambitious to encourage Menaul Students to be great leaders.
- I am ambitious that Menaul School be a happy, fun yet challenging place to learn.
- I am ambitious to grow a great garden this year...especially beautiful and delicious tomatoes.
- I am ambitious to stay in shape by training daily.
- I am ambitious to know God.
- I am ambitious to create a more beautiful Menaul School campus.
- I am ambitious to encourage Menaul teachers to nurture and challenge our students.
- I am ambitious that daily chapel be fun, inspiring, and new each time.
- I am ambitious to love my wife unconditionally.
- I am ambitious to figure out my new iphone.

My list is serious and whimsical. What is your list like? My message here is twofold. One I challenge you to be ambitious about school, about people, about exploring this beautiful world, and about preparing your life for significance. And two, I commend you for earning the Honor Roll and demonstrating positive ambition.

Regards and Blessings!

Lindsey R. Gilbert Jr.
President & Head of School
Menaul School