



## 2019-2020 Honor Code Signing Address by Grace Boyan (Form 12)

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Good morning, Students, Faculty, and Staff.

On behalf of the Honor Council, I welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year Honor Signing.

This will be my fourth year serving as a representative on the council, and each year at this ceremony I pause to reflect on this tradition and an all-important phrase.

*“My signature is my word, and my word is my honor.”*

When I was a little kid, I had a bad habit of sneaking candy back to my room. Inevitably, my mom would find the poorly hidden candy wrappers and confront me. Each time, trying to avoid the consequences, I'd lie.

You know how the rest of the story goes. Lying never pays off and as we get older, our decision making carries more weight. We're no longer deciding which candies to steal, but we are faced with situations in which the consequences can be much more dire. Inevitably, we will all find ourselves in situations in which lying, cheating, or stealing may be the easy way out. But it is in these moments where our characters are defined. Sometimes we may forget about a homework assignment or have too much on our plates to do our best work. And that's okay. Instead of asking another student to bail you out, send an e-mail to your teacher. Let them know what's going on. It shows respect for the assignment and integrity in your work. You may not be given a second chance to complete it, or you may earn a late



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grade, but you will always have their trust. And trust makes relationships and our community happier and better.

When we sign the honor code on stage today, we are making a commitment to our school, our teachers, our peers, and ourselves. We are committing to adhere to our school's values of integrity, respect and responsibility.

While our signatures belong to each of us alone, we make this promise today together, in each other's presence. And in every day of the school year, we strive as one, caring for each other, to live up to our shining potential as the Saint Mary's Hall community.

*Our signature is our word and our word is our honor.*

We will be challenged, but together we are capable of facing these challenges. I wish all of us a year of honor in and out of the classroom.

Thank you.