



If You Don't Succeed At The First Time, Try, And Try Again

20-21 Outstanding Student Awardee

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While I have accumulated accolades during my time at LMC, the failures along the way were in fact more inspiring.

Having failed in many aspects, I found my experience in vocal solo competition the most memorable and motivational for me. It was in Form 3 when I participated in a competition for the first time. I thought I was well-prepared for the event but the results turned out to be mediocre. As the saying goes, 'If you don't succeed at the first time, try and try again.' I decided that I needed more practices. With the encouragement of my instructor Ms. Liu, I tried again in Form 4 and challenged the 19-year group, a level senior to my age with a more demanding syllabus that included Brahms's art song. I allocated more time to practicing and studying the nuances in the score. While my skills showed visible progression, still I could not gather recognition in the form of an award. I was determined to succeed in Form 5.

Unfortunately, that never materialized as the competition was cancelled that year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I later came to realize that true success cannot be narrowly quantified by the awards only. My disposition and singing techniques have improved a lot in the past three years. Wasn't that a success? Success also manifested when I could inspire junior members of the School Choir to practice and improve. The essence of success is continuous trying and never giving up.

On the other hand, while I demonstrated more recognizable success in Physics, my path was not devoid of failure. When faced with Maxwell's equations for the first time, I initially could not develop a thought process to solve a question. Instead of blindly trying again, Principal Wan had us learn from the solutions and adapt the methods used. I applied the same approach to solve other problems encountered which gave me better understanding of the concept of Physics. I concluded that it's unlikely to bear a different, better result on subsequent tries with the same method. You need to look and try from other perspectives to approach a problem.

I moved on to training for the International Physics Olympiad later. When I was first introduced to the Maxwell's equations, I found it difficult to simultaneously grasp the vector calculus and the Physics behind it. Failure spawns motivation and tenacity. After studying more examples and asking others for insight on the concept of flux, I could finally utilize the Maxwell's equations properly. Later when I encountered the theory of special relativity, I could reuse my experience from the Maxwell's equations. Not only is continuous trying important, one should also be smart with each try so not to waste time. If no progress was made, one should make a modification based on the first try.

I could not have made much progress were there not help from others. While the Choir and the Mind Broadening Club tried relentlessly as a team to improve and achieve more, a company is also important for individual events. Engaging in constructive competition with classmates helped me obtain an optimal result in Physics tests. Reviewing my previous unsophisticated of art songs propelled me to continue trying and improving.

Six-year at LMC passed by in a blink of an eye. If it wasn't for the encouragement of my music teacher, I would not have participated and later succeeded in the solo competition. I would not have been able to learn physics without the help from the principal and alumni answering my questions. It was through the people I met at LMC who proved to me that failure is the mother of success. I hope that junior students would not give up when defeated but keep going with help from teachers and peers.