7 STRATEGIES OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

by:

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The great Stephen R. Covey in his book, “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” wrote about coping strategies of highly effective people. No one can deny that Covid19 has plenty of negative consequences on many aspects especially in health and economic arenas more so in the field of education. Educators, parents, and students are fighting battle against Covid19. Distance learning is not only challenging for educators to have quite unique experience of developing synchronized and an unsynchronized material but also to parents and students who are also facing a challenging situation. That is why it is beneficial for the learning community and stakeholders to apply the 7 coping strategies to build a productive distance learning environment.

Strategy #1: Begin with the End in Mind

Know what you want before you begin. This strategy is all about knowing your purpose and what you are trying to achieve. Most of teachers plan for engaging activities, differentiated assessments, and even with rich PowerPoint presentations. A skillful, well-trained teacher is essential, but it is not enough to keep you passionate. Identifying and highlighting the value you provide to the community is a unique antidote against frustration and burnout. Values are the energizing motives toward reshaping the future minds.

Strategy #2: Be Proactive
Being proactive is being aware of our responsibility and enhance the quality of effectiveness of the distance learning process. Educators should utilize every opportunity to develop pedagogical strategies. Students should take responsibility of their own learning. And parents should be aware of the new challenges both teachers and students are facing.

Strategy #3: Set Proper Priorities

“Put first things first.” Due to the overwhelming tasks and constraints that both educators and students are facing, sometimes we miss the big picture. As suggested by Covey we categorize the tasks according to their importance and urgency, to prioritize and do the most important things first and to make the most effective use of your time.

Strategy #4: Create a Win-Win Mentality

During a pandemic, a highly effective person or an organization thinks beyond themselves to create a win/win scenario. Thinking win-win should be the perception between educators, parents, and students. A successful win-win agreement and which eventually will result a unique and productive learning experience resulted when educators are passionate, students are actively engaged, and parents are supporting their kids.

Strategy #5: Develop Empathy and Understanding

One of the most powerful tools of effective people is seeking to first understand and then be understood. Communication experts suggest listening to people sincerely. Hear others with your eyes, ears, and heart. This means that both teachers and students lose 93% of communication channel during the distance learning. For that reason, the 5th strategy plays a very critical role in the success of the distance learning programs. Both teachers and students likewise parents can develop the active listening skills restating
what we hear, ask for clarification, being sincere and actively involved in discussions in any platforms.

Strategy #6: Synergy

Teachers know that to reach your potential in life, you will need to depend on other people. To provide your students with the best possible education, you will need to collaborate with other teachers and be resourceful and creative in your teaching. It has a great impact on both teachers and student’s creativity and innovation more so with parents’ strong support. Work together to achieve more.

Strategy #7: Sharpen the Saw

Renew yourself regularly. Covey suggests that we must work on renewing four dimensions in our life; physical, spiritual, mental, and social/emotional dimensions. To ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of our work, there is a need to maintain the balance between the four dimensions. Distance learning is really exhausting not only for teachers but also, it is overwhelming for both students and parents. Indeed, sharpening the saw is crucial in enhancing and preserving our energy.

These coping strategies is significantly important not only to develop our skills and attitudes towards distance learning, but also to shift our paradigm and perceptions towards collaboration and communication between educators, students, and parents.

References:

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