“EMBRACING THE NEW NORMAL IN EDUCATION”
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In the Philippines, the Covid-19 crisis has affected 27 million learners, 1 million teachers and non-teaching staff, as well as the families of learners.

The Department of education announced that the classes for the next school year would begin on August 24, 2020. The classes may start earlier but there will be no physical return to school. Department of education is offering schools a menu of alternative learning methods that include online learning and offline methods, such as the home readings and activities.

As long as the world has not found a cure or a vaccine, risk of resurgence of the decease will continue. “SKIP schooling! Parents voice!”

Department of Education once said that they will do everything in their capacity to carry on so that the basic education will still be available despite the crisis.

What will schools look like under the new normal? Why is this question being asked anyway?

Department of education provided specific learning modalities to use and take consideration the following availability of learning resources, the health and well-being of learners and DepEd personnel, national and local directives given and the choice of parents and learners.
Distance learning, a learning delivery modality where learning takes place between the teacher and the learners who are geographically remote from each other during instruction. Module distance learning is in the form of individualized instruction that allows learners to use self-learning modules (Sl.Ms) in print or digital format electronic copy, whichever is applicable in the context of the learner and other learning resources like Learner’s Material, textbooks, activity sheet, study guides and other study materials. Online distance learning, the teacher facilitating learning and engaging learner’s active participation using various technologies accessed through the internet while they are geographically remote from each other during instruction.

Home schooling is an alternative mode (ADM) that aims to provide learners with equal access to quality basic education through a home-based environment to be facilitated by qualified parents, guardians or tutors who have undergone relevant training. Blended learning that allows for a combination of face-to-face and online distance learning (ODL), face-to-face and modular distance learning (MDL), face-to-face and TV/Radio-based Instruction (RBI), and face-to-face learning and a combination with two or more types of distance learning. The traditional face-to-face learning is a learning delivery where the students and the teacher are both physically present in the classroom, and there are opportunities for active engagement immediate feedback and socio-emotional development of learners. The alternative delivery modes (ADM) are tried and tested alternative modalities of education delivery within the confines of the formal system that allow schools to deliver quality education to marginalized students and those at risk of dropping out in order to help them overcome personal, social and economic constraints in their schooling.
The Covid-19 crisis presents an opportunity for the education sector to come together and forge connection and share what works. We may have not seen this before the crisis, but we are missing a greater opportunity if we do not do this now.

One thing that is certain we know that adjusting to change can be challenging. Be it planned or unplanned, gradual or sudden, change is inevitable and very much part of being a human.

The world cannot stop learning because the world is a classroom. Learning will come to those who embrace the new normal.

“Sacrifice anything that is needed to be sacrificed to qualify yourselves to do the work of the world”

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