ACADEMIC EASE: A WAY TO EASE THE BURDEN OF HOME LEARNING

by:

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During the early months of the outbreak of the COVID 19 virus affecting millions of people all over the world, many of us have been caught unaware of what to do and how to face the “New Normal”. We all have made changes in our ways of life and even on how we absorb everything the continuously spells difference in our old customary life.

Even in the educational field, we have also suffered from uncertainties, especially during the early weeks of Quarter 1 where DepEd has become a sensation in many social media platforms. However, DepEd has been able to surpass all the misjudgments and earned its way towards cooperation and unity in the implementation of the New Modalities of Learning for this Pandemic school year.

Slowly, schools and personnel have been able to pacify the parents and guardians whose task of facilitating home learning has proven to be more challenging as it has seemed over the years.

As parents have been used to sending their children to school and putting the responsibility of teaching the learners of the different learning areas, being the parent-teacher, themselves has become quite a burden as they would have to juggle from housework, to professional and business work to family care among many others. Parents somehow have come to realize how challenging it is to make the learner study and to keep them focused while learning at home. Lessons in the self-learning modules (SLM’s) have also become a challenge as many home facilitators (parents/guardians) have already forgotten the lessons they themselves studied back in their years of schooling –
more so, lessons these days may also be quite different from what they were taught in the past.

Realizing all these, the Department has issued a Memorandum (DM No. 144, 2. 2020 entitled: Suggested Measures to Foster “Academic Ease” During the COVID 19 Pandemic, which provides ways on how to make home learning this school year, easier and more beneficial to all stakeholders implementing the new modalities of learning.

The said Memorandum on Academic Ease provides flexibility in the delivery of the Modular Print Instruction together with all the other learning deliveries being implemented this year.

It allows the schools to determine the number of activities in the SLM’s to be assigned and those which can be taken upon the option of the learners and their facilitators. Time allotment for the accomplishment and completion of the SLM’s has been adjusted to provide longer time for the weak and slow ones to finish all the work.

Learners and their facilitators are provided with all the support by the teachers and the school and they are provided with a feedback mechanism where they can address all their concerns and queries to be attended to by the school personnel the soonest possible time.

Learning activity sheets (LAS) and other learning materials can be contextualized to make them more practical and within the learners’ level and experience.

The Department of Education, through the local schools, is doing all its best to make learning more convenient and less stressful for everyone – the learners, the parents and home facilitators, the community, the teachers, and the school.

It is hoped that all is well and ends well for this school year.
References:

Department Memorandum
No. 144, s. 2020
Suggested Measures to Foster “Academic Ease” During the COVID 19 Pandemic