The k-12 basic education curriculum has undoubtedly triggered a jaw-dropping reaction from us Juan dela Cruzes for one reason: this means big business. Although this new curriculum will not generate alterations from the year 2016-2017 speculations have already arisen since it requires a great deal of change from all parties—students, teachers, plus a speculative mob of parents. A month or two is not enough to cope up with sudden change, though it will be enough for us to get used to it.

One of the changes a K-12 student will undergo is the revision of the learning areas which now includes the teaching of one’s mother apart from the Filipino and English subjects. In this area, students from grades 1-3 are trained to improve their literacy in terms of their mother tongue and later on, move on to their second language, English and Filipino. The macro skills such as listening, reading, speaking, and writing target one’s competence in both oral and writing skills.

Subjects like mathematics aren’t altered too much except that mathematics from grades 1-6 now includes geometry, algebra, and statistics which are supposedly taken by the higher year levels. Mother tongue is still used as a medium of instruction and as a subject as well from grades 1-3 then to English or Filipino from grades 4-6 while the spiral approach which means concepts are taught and developed in ascending intricacy and complexity is expected to be used by the educators.

Time for class interaction has been downsized by a huge amount especially English and Filipino which are compressed to half their usual duration. Araling Panlipunan and MAPEH time are lessened by 20 minutes while mathematics takes the lead by having the largest time allotment which is 50 minutes thus unclogging children’s academic activities.

To qualify for the tertiary level of education, one must have undergone the full 12-year basic education which includes the mandatory kindergarten, six years of elementary, for years of junior high school, and the additional two years for senior high school which will serve as a prerequisite for college in the year 2016-2017.

Twelve (12) years is an adequate preparatory step for higher education. This new curriculum is specifically designed for the improvement of the status of our country in terms of education. In international tournaments, the Philippines is always at a very unfortunate rank, usually at the row of the subordinates blaming the failure to our lack of school years which is quite sad. In Asia, the Philippines is the only country left unbendingly adhering to the old curriculum prior to the K-12.
At the end of 12-year novelty, a K-12 student is expected to be competent enough for college, think critically and intelligently, and be well-prepared for life. After the tertiary level, there will be more students who’ll have jobs both here and abroad for Filipino graduates may now reach or even exceed the standards of other countries. Yet, this curriculum still has a lot of room for improvements though the engines have been running for only a year.

K-12 is likely to succeed what with the DepEd is showcasing to us at a very early stage. They are still determined to pursue this program despite the commentaries of critics on it’s possible outcomes. The principal reason of the government in implementing this program is to enhance our level of education and to finally keep up with the rest of the world. And with enough cooperation and support from all the parties involved, there is no doubt that k-12 will be our country’s road to success.

Batang K-12 handa sa kolehiyo, handa sa trabaho, handa sa mundo. We have yet to see if this adage suits the k-12 curriculum. What you sow is what you reap, so they say. But what if it’s the seed who refuses to keep on going. No matter how hard we put our feet on the ground, there will always be certain factors which will interrupt our pursuit to eminence and completely change our course. Will these factors be strong enough to dislodge k-12 from its root? Let’s hope for the best because our country’s problem is the removal of a 10-year rotten curriculum not the nullification of its supposed-to-be lifesaver program.

K-12 quo vadis?