BLENDED LEARNING

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The Department of Education (DepEd) announced on August 7, 2021, that the academic year 2021-2022 calendar has been finalized and can keep it up with blended learning. It suggests still no in-person classes or face-to-face learning. September 13, 2021 is the opening date for SY 2021-2022. In support of Republic Act 7797, it will end on June 24, 2022, for a complete of 209 school days. Online enrollment started on August 16 and run until September 13 via phone calls, text messaging, or online filling up of forms thru links to observe social distancing and the risk of exposing the parents or guardians to the virus. The Christmas break is on December 20, with classes resuming on January 3, 2022. Unless permitted by the President, partial or full-scale conduct of face-to-face classes will still not be allowed.

As the school year reopens, blended learning must continue. What is blended learning? For some schools, blended learning for decades and decades already has been utilized. From the standpoint of DepEd, blended learning or hybrid learning is a combination or blend of online learning and printed materials, radio and television broadcast lessons, materials, and instructions for the learners.

One of the challenges in remote learning is the lower level of literacy of the parents or learning facilitators at home. Some parents have no formal education at all. We must think about it as one problem that needs to be solved. Teachers must find creative ways to connect for learners who cannot join online classes due to a lack of internet connectivity or devices to be used or doing other tasks and responsibilities at home.

Blended learning is strenuous not only for the learners but for the parents, teachers, and policymakers. The situation now is uncertain and challenging. What important is, we

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continue whatever the circumstances and whatever happens. For Deped, closing schools was never an option.

References: