COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION: THE TWO IMPORTANT C’S

by:
Mary Charlotte R. Bonus
Master Teacher I, Mariveles National High School – Cabcaben

The road traveled this year has certainly been a challenge not only for teachers but most especially for the learners. As a teacher who is trained to be flexible in a different learning situation, it is not embarrassing for us to admit that we are really having a hard time adjusting to this new normal, but we don’t have a choice but to render our service to the best possible way we can. As much as we want for us to have our class online not all students have the capacity to come along with this learning modality. Science subject is a quite complicated subject for most students that’s why it is a must for us as a Science teacher to give our 200% effort for them to achieve the most essential learning competencies.

To get along with this new normal I have read articles on dealing with this kind of learning modality that would somehow help me and my students. I think most of these articles bring me back to these two important points: communication and connection.

Communication is an essential tool for us to satisfy our needs. The dictionary defines communication as to imparting or exchanging of information. There are various ways of communicating it can be verbal, nonverbal or through emotions, written, and visual. As it is known, distance education is a new normal by following current tools about the teaching-learning process by embracing technological improvements. It is necessary that building an effective communication process depends on removing obstacles during the communication process. Awareness of communication barriers in distance learning makes people be more productive in their roles.
According to Lancaster (2017), it is a must that there is communication inside a class. It is a powerful connecting tool from which a student may learn the dos and don’ts in life and in academe. To have a dialogue with a student makes a teacher more of a human than of a professional, for it gets personal when a child invests his/her trust in someone who can learn from a youngster’s stories and find a solution to solve whatever burdens a child’s psyche, with this, the connection may follow.

Connection is also essential in learning, if communication mostly uses our senses, the connection needs our heart. Establishing a healthy connection with your students will help them to trust you. The sooner a connection is built the quicker trust is established. Although this concept may sound hard it truly is a simple tool for ensuring the ease and success of our students.

Now that we are in a new normal, where communicating and connecting is not easy, how can we make sure that this can be done? Even if we are teaching remote full-time and students just have their modules to answer or a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning connecting with families and students regularly is key. Involve the family member as much as possible in the learning of the student because they are the first person to rely on by our students. I remember when I had an online session with my regular class a parent is with her child during the discussion and assist her child in answering the modules. I salute all parents who are hands-on in the studies of their children despite their busy schedules. Besides teacher-learner-family communication, also think how you can support student-to-student connections. Let them perform some activity from the module in the group. If it is possible for them to have their groupmates from their neighbor.

It is a great help for both teachers and students for better connection if you will keep the instruction and activities simple without compromising the competencies needed. One of the critical challenges of distance learning is that you and your students are no longer in the same room to jointly tackle misconceptions. Instead, the large piece
of learning time is going to be driven by tasks that require a high level of self-direction. As a result, simplicity is key. It is critical to design distance learning experiences that have very clear instructions and utilize only one or two resources Avoid sending many instructions that might overwhelm students and parents. Another way is finding one platform that everyone can access, and consolidate messages as much as possible, just like having a group chat that would help in giving the important information.

Communicating is about using your senses all that takes your brain, your head. But true connecting comes from the heart. Connecting uses your emotions; it fosters deep and meaningful relationships—the ones you will always remember, and that is what we need during this time and that make a difference in our world.

References:

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