HOME, THE NEW CLASSROOM FOR LEARNERS

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There is a famous passage from Wilferd Peterson, an American author, saying, “A home should be a stockade, a refuge from the flaming arrows of anxiety, tension and worry.” This portrays a desirable, safe and sound characterization of a home. Some also say that the home is where our hearts stay. We all see our homes not only an abode but a sanctuary, where we feel safe and secured. Most of us may convey that their comfort zones are their homes. We find comfort and do things the way we want to. At the end of the day, our homes will always be a haven to us.

During the first days, weeks and months of the quarantine period due to pandemic Covid-19, we all stayed home. We did all things in our homes which bound us together – cooking, fixing things, watching, eating, exercising, planting, dancing, singing, social media challenges and more. Our bond kept us busy during those times and we survived. These things made us stronger with our struggle to fight the dangers of the pandemic. Then, the “new normal” begins. It made me realize that there really is no permanent in this world except change. This “new normal” paved way to many changes and adjustments.

In the “new normal,” the education system brought out new mechanisms and practices. Unfortunately, the “face to face” classroom setting halted. But the education institutions uphold that learning is a continuous process and must not stop which gave birth to the “new normal” setup. As the school year 2020-2021 opens on October 5, 2020, new learning delivery methods were introduced – modular, radio and television, online and blended. This time, classrooms in every school are all vacated. Today,
learners’ new classrooms are their homes. Their parents and guardians become their teachers. Teachers created and distributed the learning materials and facilitate learning through online sessions, mobile messages and for some, visitations. Since the start of classes, a lot of memes have been seen in the social media. One of these memes that I’ve seen says, “Teacher kunin mo na ako sa bahay, ang tapang ni mama magturo! “ At present, scenarios at home are quite different. Parents are faced with challenges with the new “setup” in the teaching-learning process. It really gave dilemma to some specially those who are working. The problems of time management, discipline strategies, teaching methods and more are apparent. Sadly, due to challenges and difficulties, there are some parents and guardians unconsciously becoming more strict and stern. The truth is, there is really a big difference studying from school and at home. Approaches at home and school are distinctive as well. We do things differently from these two places. The things we are used to when we are at home had some changes at present time. However, we are perceptive that our classroom is our second home. These challenging times will certainly teach us many things to cope up and be resilient as what is needed now. Teachers never stop their duties and responsibilities to the learners. When learners are at home, teachers perform online classes for those students who can make it. Teachers’ communication with the parents and students are always open in any form. The assistance and support needed by everybody is whole-heartedly bestowed by teachers. We may be at home and still yearning to go to our classrooms, let us bear in mind that learning is never halted and must carry on. We must not forget that our first teachers are our parents and that education begins at home. We are safer at home as we continue our education. Apparently,

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moment. Let us make our learning meaningful and valuable while at home and make the most out of it.

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