LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING
Mike Gino Diego

“Education is an investment, not an expense. We all benefit from education,” or “we can’t afford the cost of neglect.” This a valuable passage from Gary Marx, author of leadership books. Teachers are considered real leaders. They lead the students, parents, fellow workers and they lead the curriculum implementation and the organization in general. Teachers’ primary aim is to provide basic knowledge and theories to enlighten and to help them understand the underlying principles of teaching-learning process.

Teachers like leaders do more than manage. They define, stimulate shape and build support for ideas and processes to students that make an organization compatible to the highest calling. As educational leaders must know the educational aims and objectives which determine both the pedagogy and the content of education. Teachers serve as the educational compass to guide curriculum planners and other implementers.

Many teachers are influenced by the leadership principles of Jean Jacques Rousseau, an educational philosopher who started the doctrine of naturalism: education must aim at the development of a society in which individuals can realize equality, fraternity, simplicity and liberty.

Like Rousseau, S. Covey author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, has good advise to individuals which are applicable to teachers, and this is: to “Sharpen your saw” in different dimensions like, physical dimension—eating the right foods, getting sufficient
rest and exercising on a regular basis. Another dimension for a teacher is his/her spiritual dimension. This is the commitment of teachers to their value system. Also, teachers must improve their mental dimensions. Other teachers after graduation from school don’t do any more serious readings. They stop exploring new subjects.

Lastly, teachers as leaders, must also polished their social/emotional dimensions. This is centered on the principles of interpersonal leadership, emphatic communication and cooperative communication. This is developed out of and manifested in their relationships with others.

Reference: