LEARNING AWAY FROM SCHOOL

by:

Carlyzah Dimarucut Ocampo

Teacher III, Orani South Elementary School

When it became apparent that COVID19 will change almost all aspects of our lives, the first and most important concern I had was my safety and everyone else’s around me. At first I was relieved that school was suspended to prevent the spread of the virus. After all everyone’s safety was the most important goal in March. Five months later, I realize how much time our pupils are losing and how important it is for them to continue learning despite the danger of the pandemic still looming in our midst.

Undoubtedly most pupils benefit from pedagogical teaching provided in school. In addition, they develop social and emotional skills through personal interaction with teachers and classmates. Unfortunately, they are deprived of the benefits of classroom learning for the time being. Nevertheless, they will have to somehow continue learning without being in school, away from the comfort and guidance of their classmates and teachers. So, the most important question is how we can teach and guide our pupils without actually being with them. This is a question that teachers have been preoccupied with for the last months.

To make distance learning possible the school management and teachers created learning modules to guide the pupils in learning at home. This does not mean that the pupils will learn the lessons all on their own. The modules are created in a way so that parents and teachers can help the pupils in the learning process. The teachers will be available online for any questions that the parents and pupils may have on the lessons covered by the modules. To provide guidance the teachers are required to be online during normal working hours, that is when school is normally open. Pupils can ask their
questions about the subject at a particular time; there will be scheduled time allotted for each subject for the teachers to cover relevant questions.

Like most new endeavors this new way of teaching and learning comes with challenges. The pupils will have to develop the interest, concentration and discipline to learn the lessons through the use of the modules provided by the school. The teachers will have to use creative ways of communicating with the pupils and parents to impart knowledge and provide guidance mostly through telecommunications. As not all pupils have internet access at home, the teachers will have to spend a lot of time on developing, printing and distributing learning modules. They also have to adjust to new working schedules and routine working from home. But they will try to make this happen to the best of their ability and dedication because learning has to continue despite the pandemic.

References: