While writing this article, my washing machine and rice cooker are also working. Holding my cellphone to answer my students about their queries while feeding my youngest, checking the content of modules in between cleaning the mess of my youngest, concentrating on checking answers of my students while hearing the unlimited voice of the little ponies and coco melon on t.v.is hard for me, these are all the scenario in my house every day the so-called NEW NORMAL. When I have my online class, I make sure that my husband is not busy so that he can take care of our daughter. There are so many things to consider when I am planning to have my online class, a few days before you will see me busy working on my laptop to prepare the lesson and presentation to my class. I make sure that my presentation is good enough for my students to get the knowledge that they need, I try to simplify the lesson as much as I can. Sadly, not all my students can attend my class because of the availability of the internet and gadgets. Since I am holding a special section (SSC) I carefully choose the additional activity for them. Even a little detail on my presentation like font size, style, animations, the background was carefully chosen because I believe that through this way it can excite my student during my online class. One good thing about this online class is that you can deliver the lesson without interruption from noisy students you can mute them for an hour, but I think nothing beats the face-to-face class. Maintaining the involvement of students, particularly young junior high school learners is critical.

Online class once in a while with regular section and with SSC is different, in my SSC class, I usually have my class in the morning so that we can have plenty of time to talk and for discussions, because most of them can afford good internet access but when
I have my online class with the regular section I normally do it at afternoon, after lunch in particular because some of my students were busy helping chores, helping their parents to earn a living so that they will have money to buy a load for their internet connections. If you will let them make to turn on their camera you will clearly see the difference, their environment, their status of living. I even have a student working on the fishing net, holding her baby brother, washing clothes while we are having an online class. I am so thankful for this kind of student who is trying their best in reaching out to my class despite their shortcomings. You see, we are in the same sea of pandemics, but we have different boats. Lucky for us as a teacher because we have continuous compensation we can still provide for the needs of our family, so who are we to complain.

What makes me more inspired in doing my job is when students told me “Mam mas masaya siguro lalo kung nagkikita na tayo ano po,kasi sa online ang galing nyo na at ang saya nyo magklase”, “Mam, I can’t wait to meet you in person”, “Mam I’m rooting for you”.

Maybe the world needed a break to remember how to value what it had but forgot to experience. Life is to be lived through the experience, not to be used as a pursuit to observe and compare oneself with others. I will leave you with a simple thought to fonder: never forget to love and care more, because it is often that life in this world is unpredictable and ever-changing, one cannot risk taking the time or loved ones for granted.

References: