MAKING THE BEST OUT OF HOLIDAY BREAKS

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Recently, the Department of Education enjoyed a lengthy vacation brought about by the holiday season (Christmas Break). This is a time where the teachers and the students get to enjoy breaks from school works, classroom activities, checking papers, lesson plans and everything else. This is also a time to relax, forget about school matters and create long and lasting bonds with family and friends. Here and there people get to receive invitations of parties, reunions and meetings. Normally holiday breaks during December lasts for two weeks, sometimes, if lucky enough, breaks span a week longer.

It is good to have a bit of a break from the hustle and bustle of the teaching world. Spending time with family and friends help recharge the teacher and rejuvenate. This helps a lot in getting back to school having new energy in dealing with students, grades and test papers. Traveling, sleeping, cooking and eating, picnics are the normal activities in the bucket list. But this does not mean that the teacher will spend the whole vacation as if there is no longer January that resumes classes. After the holiday break, it is important to prepare for the remaining school year. This also rewires our brains and body to go back to school work. Planning ahead will give the teacher a better chance of providing quality instructions to students and ensure that all aspects and requirements before the school year ends in March are met. Three days or a week before the school resumes is an ideal time to start preparing school materials and conceptualizing how the remaining three school months will be spent.

There are numerous ways of preparing for the resumption of classes.

Learning a new computer software or app that is useful in class interaction
Reading a book that can be shared or used in the class discussion

Collaborating with other teachers in achieving across curriculum contents

Innovate in managing classroom activities, home works and student performance tasks

Schedule and attend student activities inside and outside the school

These are only a few suggestion on how to make the holiday break enjoyable yet still productive. Vacations don’t just mean idle and irrelevant activities nor even procrastination. This means re-energizing the souls so that the individual will have renewed strength to face the new challenges ahead. Teachers need to be reminded that vacations are only short breaks from the monotony of school tasks and these are not yearlong occurrences. Even if these days are breaks from work, still they are a part of work. Therefore, they must be spent wisely. Enjoying the holiday and still managing classroom preparations is a sure way of enjoying the teaching profession.

References:

Short K., (2019), How to Make the Most of Winter Break, Edutopia, retrieved from https://www.edutopia.org/article/how-make-most-winter-break