MOTIVATING STUDENTS TO LEARN IN A VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

by:
Jenalyn S. Aquino
Teacher III, Luakan National High School

A growing body of research findings reveal that students need to be motivated with their new learning and experiences both at home and in the classroom. Whether the mode of teaching in the opening of classes in August for the school year 2020-2021, is Blended Learning, Traditional “Chalk-Board,” Lecture, Modular Learning or Digital Platform, teachers fully know the importance of motivation. What is motivation and why it is important?

Motivation carries varying definition and dimensions and apparently, low students’ motivation leads to negative educational outcomes. It may result to absenteeism, class misconduct or misbehavior in class and low achievement of a student, On the other hand, motivation according to Sacdalan is “a phenomenon in which aspects of the immediate environment enhance their relationship, by stimulating children to think; about their social interactions, to learn particular things or behave in particular way so that they may acquire the ability to engage with others and at the same time improve their academic behaviour.”

The big question is: how can teachers motivate students to study in digital world? How can children achieve a joyful learning in the virtual classroom? How do teachers deal with students in a digital platform? In teaching in a digital platform, how is teaching be adapted and see the difference from a regular classroom?

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs proposes that individuals must fulfill their lower-order needs (basic needs such as water and housing, safety, belongingness, and esteem) before being motivated to fulfill higher order need for self-actualization. In the context of
teaching-learning, self-actualization can be understood as personal achievement a key component of students’ motivation.

Before we may admit that a student is motivated in a virtual classroom, the teacher must see to it that students are not distracted by the technology use. They must concentrate on what is going on. Teachers must make students feel even in the midst of technology use, that their teachers are by their sides although they are not experiencing the usual face to face process. Teachers must also be emphatic in motivating students by explaining to them that cheating has no room in a virtual classroom and their performance will count most. The teacher must see to it that students are given reliable materials and other resources for learning. They must also help students with ease in access to information. They must try to make students feel that they are enjoying classes in the social village, since technology classes save time, there’s an ease of mobility, better communication, cost efficient, innovation, and better learning approaches and techniques.

If the virtual classroom teacher will be serious in implementing the above-mentioned reminders, then, there will be no reason, why students will not be motivated.

References:

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Department of Education (Dep Ed) (2020) Blended Learning Modalities