MS TEAMS AND GOOGLE CLASSROOM: CONVENIENT ONLINE PLATFORMS IN LEARNING SCIENCE

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Due to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus in the country, everyone is forced to adjust to the newly implemented protocols by the government. One of them is the social distancing protocol that drastically changed the way people live their lives. Aside from that, many sectors in the country are mandated to modify their services and operations to be able to contain the virus. Like other sectors, the educational sector in the country is one that acquired most of the damage brought by the pandemic.

Though it was being slightly delayed, the Department of Education can kick off the current school year with its new normal setup being implemented wholly over the country. Online learning becomes one of the norms, but it is obvious that many students are having a hard time with it.

Students are having a hard time learning the subjects, especially in Mathematics and Science even when there are still face-to-face classes way back years. Now that online learning is being imposed, it is truly thought that it is the end of their dreams because of having an initial assumption that they will fail on their subjects especially the math and science ones. Thankfully, the online platforms go for help.

Frankly, we thought that the online setup is just us and our students having a video call for the whole time through FB-Messenger or Zoom. Like Philadelphia 76ers said, trust the process. We just let ourselves with this online setup and luckily, the teachers are able to introduce the students to these more complex yet helpful and effective online platforms.
that can testify in helping them in learning their subjects especially the Chemistry and the Physics subjects.

Let us give acknowledgment to their two online platforms that indeed help the students in learning their Science subjects. First is the Teams powered by Microsoft. This app is introduced by so many Physics teachers and we can say that it is interface-wise. Its interface is very clean, simple yet straightforward. It has 5 tabs in the lower part. The ‘activity’ tab where you can see your notifications. The ‘chat’ tab where your messages are found. The ‘teams’ tab where your channels are can be found. The ‘calls’ tab for your call history, and the ‘more’ tab for more great features like Approvals, Assignments, Camera, Edu Class Notebook, Edu Staff Notebook, Insights, Organization, Saved, Shifts, Task by Planner to Do, and Wiki.

This app is great especially for scheduling an online test, and online meetups. The teacher usually assigns a date and time when the meet-up is being scheduled, and when the scheduled test will start and expired. It is a great feature for many learners because it helps them know the accurate time on when the meetups and exams are going to start. The thing that we will love about this platform is the teacher is able to record the meetup, then post it to a certain channel so we can reach back whenever the students want to clarify some particular questions.

The second online platform is the Classroom by Google (Google Classroom). This app is popular so we can say it is easier to utilize and to set up by the teachers and the learners. We can also give its interface a 10/10. The interface is also clean and comprehensible. Unlike the Teams app, it has only 3 tabs at its bottom portion. A ‘stream’ tab for the posted materials by your teacher. The ‘classwork’ tab where you can find the posted materials being classified as ‘lesson’, ‘assignment’, and ‘activity. A ‘people’ tab where you can see your teacher/s and classmates inside the class.
We can say that this app gives each of us an advantage in organizing the materials being posted by the teachers. It has a great feature to easily know what and when the activities are due to, also if it is an assignment or an activity. Just like in the Teams app, a Chemistry teacher is also able to post a recorded video in the class so students are able to watch the lesson again whenever they want to especially when the lesson focuses on experimentation.

We can say that this app is a great platform for us to use in learning the subjects, but it still not as great compared with the typical learning we are used to. Overall, it is better to have it than nothing. It is highly recommended to use this application for its great features and for being beginner-friendly.

All in all, Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom are online platforms that can significantly change our online teaching and learning experiences. These are great applications that can help students learn not just in Science subjects, but also other subjects. Both can give us advantages to cope up with the disadvantages brought by the online setup. Both are good, but always remember to be responsible in using them.

References:

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