PANDEMIC SET-UP
Written by: Alicia A. Marquez, LPT

It was March 2020 when the world was hit by an unexpected calamity. A virus originated from China made our daily lives came to a grinding halt. Many restrictions were imposed to slow down the spread of the virus. From travel bans, closure of restaurants, curfews, stay at home rules and wearing of face masks and face shields, the people came to adapt the new normal.

One of the most affected is our educational system. With the government protecting the lives of the students, it was with keen agreement that learning should continue but with maximum changes. Face to face learning was not anymore applicable and in the option. And so modular learning was implemented and so is online learning.

What is online learning? Online learning is a type of teaching and learning process categorized under distance learning. Distance learning, in addition, is a process which allows students to learn not in the proximity of the school at any given time and place (Chaney, 2010). Online learning can also be described as learning that mainly uses the Internet takes place using technology (U.S. Department of Education, 2010). Many of the private schools, colleges and universities adapt online learning. Online teaching is not new, however this way of teaching is not commonly used since its effectiveness is still in question. Moreover, challenges and teachers’ struggles teaching online are not yet properly addressed. Seminars and workshops regarding this topic are less compared to seminars addressing face to face learning strategies.

According to Shayna Joubert, 2020, there are nine strategies to ensure online learning’s success tackled on her paper “How to Be a Successful Online Learner: 9 Tips & Strategies”. One is to be prepared and organized. Ensuring that your gadgets and Internet are
working are the first and foremost that should be done. Also have your materials on hand and always ready. Second, set up your own working place.

But it is not enough that only students have strategies. Teachers must also be equipped with methodologies and pedagogies to ensure that online learning will be a success. There must be collaboration between students, teachers and parents to make learning more effective.

Together we can make a difference.

References:
Northeastern University (2020). How to be a successful online learner: 9 tips and strategies. https://www.northeastern.edu/bachelors-completion/news/successful-online-learning-strategies/