SENIOR HIGH: HELPING OTHERS AIM HIGHER DREAMS

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Like most of the poor students in our country, too many students dream of helping their families break out of poverty and deprived opportunities. Not all parents are capable to send their children on college and get a degree, but at least, parents are expecting their children to finish high school. Dreaming better starts when young. Dreams serve as motivation and inspiration for learners to become better individual in the future. Dreams initiates individuals to make goals, and these goals eventually turns to achievements. The great sense of fulfillment come when teachers see their learner take the right path to succeed. But the question is, how teachers help students dream even bigger? Despite of fear, hardships, and obstacles along the way, the senior high school program has lots of opportunities to offer. The two-additional years in high school are great time for students to learn, develop skills, and gain life-long experiences to make their dreams a future reality. The new K-to-12 program in senior high school may contribute new and additional knowledge and skills for high school students to land on better opportunities after graduation. The role of teachers in senior high school is not only to teach the new and additional learnings, but to empower students to reach for their higher dreams.

Philippines was one of the last countries in Asia to implement the 12-year basic education curriculum. On the last two years, there were about 1.2 million graduates produced under the senior high school program which aligns educational attainment to global standards. It is part of the government’s wider efforts to strengthen the curriculum and prepare students for more opportunities to be employed, establish business, gain technical-vocational skills, and advance for college. Aiming for that higher dreams needs self-realization which students get at the perfect time while enrolled in the senior high
school. Students are expected of self-motivating statements such as “Senior high schools helped me realized what course I want to take in college.” or “Senior high school gave me enough time to enhance my skills.” Students with job-ready skills in areas such as welding, information technology, culinary, agri-fishery, electronics and electrical, even maritime are expected to improve and feel more confident to perform the job.

The implementation of the new senior high school program could be very challenging yet interesting for students and all stakeholders. It is indeed a perfect time and place for learners to realize their potentials and inner-self. Values such as cooperation, unity, wide understanding, and independence are mere at hand to practice. Life could be hard and short, senior high school helps students embrace it and dream big.

References: