TIPS IN CONDUCTING EFFECTIVE VIRTUAL TEACHING

by:

Lady Airish D. Nicdao
Master Teacher I, Casupanan Elementary School

We can deny the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed education in many ways. With these dramatic changes, as a result, the use of virtual teaching and learning arises wherein teaching is undertaken on digital platforms. This form of teaching is also referred to as online learning which is one of the useful responses to the spread of this health crisis.

Surely, a lot of us in the educational field is new to this mode of teaching. Below are some suggestions you can consider to conduct an effective virtual teaching.

1. Decide what virtual platform will you use. There are a lot of platforms that you can utilize in your online class. Some of these are Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classroom, Skype and WizIQ. These platforms will provide you with virtual classroom like environment and will allow you to have student-teacher interaction. It is a must that you should select a platform which is easy to use and accessible to the majority of your learners. You can also record digitized lessons and upload it on your YouTube channels or Facebook groups where your learners can view it anytime. You can also send these video lessons to your group chats if possible.

2. Use virtual games and other tools to help students learn. You should also learn to add interactive features to your chosen online platform. There are available online applications where you can design your own interactive activities like quizzes, audio files, video files, simulations ad games. Virtual games include puzzles, bingo, scattegories, pictionarys and scavenger hunt. These fun and engaging
games can offer unique examples and contexts in which each learner can apply their learned knowledge and skills.

3. Ask the parents’ support. Online teaching will become successful if you can make your learners’ parents involved. Young learners especially in the elementary years will need their parents’ help in navigating the online platform used in teaching. Be sure to establish open and frequent communication with them so that they can reach out for your help whenever they have queries. Sharing your feedback on their children’s progress and performance in your online class is also a must. Parents’ role is vital in aspects like setting up a designated study area for their children, building a schedule and getting to know the online learning platform. Teacher- parent collaboration will really yield positive effects on the success of online teaching.

4. Use icebreakers. It is advisable to use an online platform not exceeding to 45 minutes. Take into consideration your learners’ eyes and minds. Screen-free brain breakers will help make your learners relax and be free from boredom. Just like a normal school scenario wherein students enjoy breaks such as recess, online learning must also give way to frequent breaks. There are a lot of icebreakers specifically designed for online classes. These include two truths and a lie, table topics, three words, big lottery win, storytelling, hope and fears and one word or image.

5. Ensure accessibility to all your learners. The issue of online teaching and learning accessibility is one of the major issues in the new normal educational setting. Not all learners have the ability to have gadgets and access to internet connection needed for online learning. With problems like these, the teacher should think of alternative ways on how pupils can access your prepared virtual lessons. You can send them copies of your digitized lessons via messenger or have them copy your recorded video lessons with their flash drives. You can also send the files via SHAREit application or Bluetooth to their parents' mobile devices. Request them
to let their classmates near to them to watch it so that they can also have the chance to view the recorded video lessons.

By taking into consideration these suggestions, teachers can have a broaden understanding of virtual teaching and enable learners to gain successful learning outcomes while enjoying.

References:

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