

## FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES, BOONS AND BANES

*by:*

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After two long pandemic years, learners are set to wave “Hi” and “Hello” to their respective school but with proper and strict health protocols. Recently, President Rodrigo Duterte approves the recommendation for the progressive expansion of face-to-face classes in both public and private schools. Both the Department of Education and Department of Health agreed to a joint memorandum which includes the main protocols and standards in the conduct of the expansion phase. In spite of the efforts to physically reopen schools for the face-to-face classes, the blended learning modality remains present.

Face-to-Face learning is where the teacher and the student meet physically in the school for a set time. It is really an effective way to learn knowledge and skills. Through this, different ways of learning such as reading, writing, critical thinking, discussing, demonstrating, and presenting are being practiced. By attending physically in class, learners are able to concentrate harder on their learning given that there is less distraction in classrooms than if they were at home. Real-world examples are given by the teacher and other students which promotes greater understanding. Considering the fact that some disciplines require hands-on experience, in-person learning might make better fit. If a learner is tech-challenged individual, this modality will surely be of great help. Imagine students and parents on a low-income family striving their very hard to purchase gadgets just to catch up in online learning. Unfortunately, there are also parents and guardians who cannot attend to their child’s needs in terms of learning. These points add up to why face-to-face classes should be considered.

On the contrary, there are also drawbacks of attending physical learning. Now more than ever, parents should understand that by sending the learners physically at school they could be easily infected by the virus. Although observing health protocols implemented by the school, the virus remains on our surrounding. One cannot tell when, where or how can it infect you. Also, by sending students physically at school, they need to commute or walk to and from the school which will guzzle up their time, money, and safety.

Face-to-face class is fast approaching. After all, it is up to the parents' or guardians' discretion if their child will participate the new normal way of learning. Good thing, our country has now readily available Covid vaccines for the general population and the pediatrics population as well. The Department of Education is fully aware that not only the students but also the school personnel are being at risk that is why preparations for physical learning is given strict priority. The efforts of school personnel are commendable in this much awaited face-to-face learning. Parents, guardians, and the students should be excited. School gates are reopening very soon.

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