

HOW STUDENTS SHOULD REMEMBER US

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At a future date, when your students tell others about their schooling during the CoViD-19 pandemic, how do you want them to remember you as their class adviser or subject teacher? Surely, you want them to remember that they had a teacher who helped them keep some sense of normalcy while the rest of the country is rumbling in distress.

A teacher who has assigned works that matter. With several students feeling stress over their futures (Tee, M. L., Tee, C. A., Anlacan, J. P., Aligam, K., Reyes, P., Kuruchittham, V., & Ho, R. C. (2020), this is not the time to assign them with busywork. However, I do not mean that we stop sending learning modules or activity sheets to them. We just need to assign them works that matter. It is true that the learning modules provided by the Department of Education are based on the Most Essential Learning Competencies – which absolutely matter. However, it is within our free will to unload some burden from our students by lessening the number of activities they need to accomplish, provided that the curriculum standard is already achieved. If unloading is impossible, we can actually make them understand that a specific lesson or activity does matter and cannot be skipped. It all boils down to our ability to make them understand that what you ask them matters.

A teacher who has shown availability. Even though learning modules are carefully designed to help students learn on their own, students will still have a lot of questions. Even though you conduct online classes or upload a recorded video of a discussion, they will still have a lot of questions. Students asking a boatload of questions is no longer unusual, so our responsibility is to keep them accommodated and accompanied as they

try to learn. Whenever they find themselves lost or in confusion, they should find us available on our social media account, email address, or phone number.

A teacher who has created a sense of community. Our students are used to being in a community atmosphere when they are in class. They are used to seeing their friends and having conversations with other students. Unfortunately, this pandemic has brought everyone to social isolation, and there is a tendency that a student or two is feeling downcast, which can distract learning. Good thing almost every teacher has its private group chat where they keep students posted. As a teacher, we can send daily or weekly messages to our students addressing their well-being. You can also encourage them to keep in touch with one another by exchanging social media accounts or phone numbers. Today, with the sudden shift to social isolation, a sense of community atmosphere matters.

A teacher who has shared optimism. When negativity surrounds, it's important to be optimistic, especially when it comes to teaching our students. We should not let the pandemonium of this pandemic ruin student's love for learning. Using phrases like, "When we're back in class together next year" and addressing the future with positivity can boost student morale and keep their spirit up. In so doing, they will work harder.

There are many ways how we can be remembered by our student during this pandemic. What I hope is that we fall somewhere near those mentioned above.

References:

Tee, M. L., Tee, C. A., Anlacan, J. P., Aligam, K., Reyes, P., Kuruchittham, V., & Ho, R. C. (2020). Psychological impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines. *Journal of affective disorders*, 277, 379–391. Retrieved from

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