

LOOK FORWARD, DO NOT FEAR

by:

Rosette Megg C. Basilio

Teacher I, Justice Emilio Angeles Gancayco Memorial High School

Here we are two (2) years since the pandemic began, still recovering and thriving to get back to how we were before the pandemic struck. Economies are slowly getting back to their feet, businesses starting to flourish, and tourism is becoming abundant again. The education system is also doing its best to return to the conventional face-to-face while also continuously adapting to the needs of the current situation. Doing online classes for the past years has shown us the struggles of the students and teachers alike to survive our education.

It can't be denied that being in the pandemic somehow provided the students and the teachers some "perks" when doing and coming to classes despite the obvious difficulties. We are spared from the hassle of the early preparation to avoid getting late. We are teaching/studying in the convenience of our homes. There is no need to be in our uniform. We can easily have our snacks in between classes, and more importantly, we manage to save more because of reduced expenses.

With these advantages that we experienced, we also faced hardships. Students find it difficult to learn when doing online classes and modules only. We must be aware that not all students have the same access to technology that the online classes require for them to keep up. Having no direct supervision from the teachers also affects their learning because as we hate to admit, not all families have someone that can help us to understand the things we can't by ourselves. Due to the pandemic, the learning and teaching capacity of our education system decreased if not dwindled.

Now that we are slowly trying to come back from conducting face-to-face classes, I can think of some hurdles the students and teachers will encounter.

The students may find it difficult to get back into their morning routine in which they need to wake up and prepare early to come to class especially those who will be experiencing doing face-to-face classes for the first time. Also, those who are used to answering modules within a tolerable deadline may struggle when given daily tasks and assignments to be submitted the next day. Exams can be unpredictable because as we all know, internal schedules are more subject to change during the normal set-up. From a financial point of view, it will surely be more costly to attend classes. Every day the students will need allowances for their transportation and snacks and school-related miscellaneous expenses.

Teachers also definitely have adjustments to perform to comply with the changing situation of the education: time management, workload management, and communication and social skills, and mind you, temper management is also a big factor.

I know there will be a lot more of what we will encounter by as they say, "We'll cross the bridge when we get there." For now, we are all looking forward to getting back to our lives before the pandemic happened. It is inspiring and motivating to think that schools will get lively again. As a teacher, there is no greater joy than to work in a competitive, alive, and healthy environment. Yes, it will be surely hard but what is life if not trying to conquer the day and prepare for the next.

References:

<https://masterkeyenglish.com/es/idiom-cross-that-bridge-when-we-get-there/>

<https://theconversation.com/online-learning-will-be-hard-for-kids-whose-schools-close-and-the-digital-divide-will-make-it-even-harder-for-some-of-them-133338>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/04/23/how-lenient-or-not-should-professors-be-students-right-now>