

EXPANDING THE HORIZONS OF LEARNING

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Last April 6, 2022, the Department of Education released DepEd Order 17, s. 2022 entitled “Guidelines on the Progressive Expansion of Face-to-Face Classes.” This implies that students will have the opportunity to come back to school and learn thru the direct instructions and supervision of their teachers, something that they most probably missed during the pandemic period. Previously, only a limited number of students are allowed to report to school with a limited time to stay in school to learn. With the new guidelines, they are given more time thus, more chances for learning. But how can the expanded face-to-face learning modality be of any benefit to the students?

Seemingly, the modular type of learning is not yet totally eradicated to be replaced by the in-face learning style. Online classes, printed and digitized learning modalities are still in use to support the learning conditions of the students. The pandemic period exposed both the vulnerability, creativity, and adaptability of the school as a whole. Teachers, admins, learners, parents and the community were all able to conform to the sudden changes in the learning environment. When the situation called for personal space learning, they complied. When learning restrictions were eased, they returned to school. When learning need to be blended with in-face and modular, they adapted.

This opened up a new avenue for learning to take place. Education is now no longer confined in the four walls of the classrooms but has now become borderless and boundless. The learners and teachers can now reach each other even without being physically present. Education was delivered in all sorts of media that is available and suitable to the students. The box that holds education was broken and the fences have

been breached. Education now have wider horizons to choose from. At any consolation, learners are deemed lucky that the pandemic was able to pave the way for the implementation of new means and ways for education to be acquired.

Truly, the Department of Education's battle cry "Education for all" can now be achieved in much greater heights as it was before. For all are now given chances of being educated. The only thing that matters now is how will the learner seize every opportunity they have now?

References:

Department of Education, (2020), Guidelines on the progressive expansion of face to face classes, [DepEd Order 17, s. 2022], retrieved https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/DO_s2022_017.pdf