

SILVER LINING

by:

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There was this very common saying among people whenever they are confronted with life's difficulties and challenges, "every cloud has silver linings," which succinctly interpreted to mean that in every life's challenge, there will always be hope that we will be able to overcome them.

The past two academic years of 2020 – 2021 and 2021 – 2022 conveyed to us teacher, students, and parents alike, the most pressing times which directly and indirectly affected our normal educational activities. Face to face classes and other similar in-person school – related activities were strictly prohibited to avoid the spread of the disease, instead, most schools in the country diverted to a less effective modular distance learning where students are almost left alone with their parents and guardians in learning from their self – learning kits or modules. I was a personal witness of this difficulties myself especially that my students were the incoming Grade 7 learners at that time when the pandemic hit the country back in 2020. It was hard as finding a missing grain of sand in the middle of the beach as no one were that prepared. Everyone was all caught off guard. If teaching my grade 7 learners during the normal in-person classes was already difficult, how much more when they were almost left alone at home with their parents and guardians serving as their substitute teachers? What if the parents or guardians were not that patient enough in guiding their children? What if the children find it difficult to cope up with their SLMs while attending to their household chores? What if they get distracted by other things such as social media and mobile games? All these learning concerns are my concerns since I am a teacher. Yet, I was somehow paralyzed by the early onset of the modular distance learning and almost could do nothing about it since even if I wanted to exert much effort

by doing online synchronous classes, most of my students are poor and do not have internet or data connectivity, and even if I wanted to visit them especially those who were identified as struggling students, those activities were then prohibited plus the fact that I was also concerned about my own health. Yet, instead of looking these negative things to be purely negative and frustrating, I tried to look at the positive side of it – opportunities for families to get closer, to have chit-chats, to talk about how they were doing, to learn new things beside the usual ABCs and 123s, and rediscovering positive family values that were oftentimes neglected or overlooked at school. These were the silver linings behind the gloomy clouds of the two years of the pandemic. As the lyrics of Enya’s song says, “Hope is home and the heart is free,” we are all called to look at life’s challenges not as burdens but opportunities for a better life.

References:

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