

EMPOWERING LEARNERS THROUGH CATCH-UP FRIDAYS

by:

Ryan Tablizo Ambrocio

Teacher I, Luakan National High School

The Department of Education (DepEd) instituted catch-up Fridays to fill in learning gaps and improve students' basic, social, and pertinent abilities in elementary and secondary education. According to DepEd as published by Magsambol (2024), Catch-up Friday is a "learning mechanism intended to strengthen the foundational, social, and other relevant skills necessary to actualize the intent of the basic education curriculum."

The focus on comprehensive development that Catch-up Fridays place is one of its main features. A day devoted to reading, values, peace, and health education gives kids the chance to develop life skills that are vital for their total development in addition to academic ones. The National Reading Program and the Homeroom Guidance Program, for example, provide students with a variety of learning opportunities that support their social, emotional, and intellectual development.

Catch-up Fridays are a useful tool for closing the achievement gaps in kids. Students receive extra help and resources to assist their learning through the use of programs like "Drop Everything and Read" (DEAR) and teacher collaboration meetings to discuss best practices. By focusing on particular areas of development and customizing interventions to match the unique needs of each student, educators can create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment.

The fact that Catch-up Fridays foster collaborative learning environments is another important feature of the event. Through group activities and conversations focused on health, values, and peace education, Catch-up Fridays promote knowledge

exchange and peer-to-peer engagement among students. In addition to improving students' comprehension of important ideas, this collaborative method helps them develop critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills—all of which are necessary for both their academic and personal success

Catch-up Fridays are important for improving the professional growth of teachers as well. Educators can enhance their subject matter expertise, explore novel ideas, and develop their teaching strategies by participating in collaborative sessions and exchanging best practices. In addition to helping individual instructors, this ongoing professional development also helps schools enhance the general caliber of instruction, which in turn improves student learning.

Initiatives such as Catch-up Fridays take on even more importance when seen in the context of global education difficulties brought to light by tests such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). With an emphasis on fundamental subjects like physics, math, and reading, Catch-up Fridays seek to provide children the tools they need to succeed in a world that is becoming more connected and competitive. This proactive approach to resolving educational issues shows a dedication to guaranteeing all students, regardless of their circumstances or background, receive a top-notch education.

Moreover, Catch-up Fridays are essential for encouraging kids to have a lifetime of study. Catch-up Fridays create a culture of regular reading, values inquiry, and group learning that paves the way for a lifetime of intellectual curiosity and personal development. These practices help students not only in the classroom but also in life, giving them the tools and perspective to deal with the challenges of the contemporary world and seek lifelong learning.

Furthermore, Catch-up Fridays are important because they help maintain stakeholder involvement. Through the promotion of partnerships between schools and

parents, community members, and other stakeholders, Catch-up Fridays establish a positive and encouraging environment that upholds the value of education and encourages a shared responsibility for the academic achievement of all students. By working together, we can make sure that the advantages of Catch-up Fridays go beyond the classroom and have a long-lasting effect on students' general development and well-being.

Indeed, Catch-up Fridays are extremely important in the educational system because they provide a variety of strategies for filling in learning gaps, encouraging holistic growth, and helping students build a lifelong love of learning. Catch-up Fridays give educators a platform to address the various needs of students and establish inclusive and equitable learning environments by allocating specific time for reading, values education, and collaborative learning. It will be crucial to keep funding programs like Catch-up Fridays in the future to guarantee high-quality instruction and provide students the tools they need to succeed in a world that is changing all the time.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

References:

Magsambol, B. (2024, January 12). What you need to know about DepEd's 'Catch-up Fridays'. Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/philippines/things-to-know-department-education-catch-up-fridays/>