

## TRANSITION OF TRADITIONAL CLASSES INTO DIGITAL LEARNING

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As we gradually emerge to a digital world, it is a must to adjust into a changing world, we do not have a choice but to adapt to changes and embrace the present. Digital world makes everything easy and convenient, we can communicate to our loved ones in long distance through social media, we can shop online through online shopping applications, can send and receive money through online banking, order food online and even online classes are already a thing; this shift from traditional way into digital platforms make our everyday transactions easy. With the continuous development of online platforms that cater each individual's need, are we ready to submit to these kinds of processes and leave the traditional way of accomplishing things?

The year 2020 has brought a lot of challenges to everyone, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, and race—we are all affected of the Covid-19 pandemic. This situation in our world has forced us to shift quickly to online processes since every aspect of the society is affected in this crisis, including the education sector. As the lockdowns are imposed to limit and contain the transmission of the virus, face to face interactions have become limited, making traditional classroom learning impossible to conduct this year—seems the only possible option to continue education is through blended learning which consists of learning via internet, TV, and radio as an alternative platform for learning.

Promoting blended learning creates a lot of debate as to which our country can support this kind of learning strategy towards students to continue learning, since there are a lot of factors to be considered in conducting online classes including devices, Wi-Fi/data connectivity, and accessibility for both teachers and students. Not only students

need to adjust in this kind of set-up but also, it creates a huge adjustment to teachers since most of them are all comfortable and used to teaching in a classroom setting, having a face-to-face interaction with the students and engaging each child during discussion—but with the new set-up, how can our teachers adapt into the “new normal” way of teaching?

The Department of Education has offered webinars and trainings regarding the blended learning to be implemented for this year’s school year. They have provided module writing training in which teachers can have an opportunity to create, share, and contribute their own module as well as share and compare with their co-teachers; this activity also promotes collective effort from teachers so they can also learn from one another and help each other improve their module for teaching. But with all of these provided trainings and webinars, are we ready to traverse from a traditional learning into a digital platform?

Through these changes in the educational sector it is essential for the teachers to update their teaching practice, skills and strategies to meet the expectations of online classes.

Familiarization with different online meeting application and additional technical skills are expected from the teachers, with this, they can apply the synchronous and asynchronous type of online teaching and learning; synchronous happens real time, they may use online channels like Zoom, Skype, Webex Meet, and Facebook Messenger to meet their students while asynchronous has no interaction but uses online platforms to accomplish each lesson—for it to be successful, technical, physical and mental preparation from both end from the teachers and students are expected.

These challenges brought by the pandemic for all of us were never easy, it has changed our lives and created a huge impact in our everyday lives; it helped us realize that everything is temporary and in a snap of a finger changes will occur and we have no

choice but to go along with it. We have to accept that our lives will never be the same after the pandemic and that we have to embrace the new normal and whichever situation may occur, we have to remember that no crisis can stop education, thus, learning is a lifetime process.

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