

How a school can thrive in the new normal

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QUARANTINE trends were integrated to student activities.

The supposed one-week suspension for schools extended to more than a year of virtual classes. Admittedly, most of them still grapple with the new normal way of learning.

In a November 2020 survey by RAND Corporation, 56-percent of teachers in the US finished only half of the curriculum. In addition, classes only had a maximum 91-percent attendance for the entire semester.

In the Philippines, the major cause of the struggle of online classes is accessibility especially to students living in far-flung areas.

Meanwhile, the German European School Manila (GESM) was one step ahead of all schools when it established a virtual portal as early as a day after the class suspension. It continued to thrive seamlessly amid pandemic and here's how they did it:

Comprehensive planning

In addition to setting up a virtual platform, GESM acquired equipment for a blended learning setup. Conducting this mode of learning was brought by the regular consultations with parents and students.

Before most schools decided to adopt blended learning, GESM laid down the groundwork.

Student-centric services

Well-aware that homebound students are not equipped with school materials, GESM staff went an extra mile to deliver phone chargers, left-handed scissors, printer cartridges, medicines, etc. and delivered it to their students without extra charge.

GESM did all of these in two days.

Seeing the brighter side

And while everyone is still in shock with pandemic-related concerns, GESM saw the silver lining of purely virtual connections.

During its University fair last November, GESM gathered 26 international institutions around the world. The fair attracted 400 students, teachers and parents without spending much. It was also better facilitated since it is purely digital.

When quarantine trends boomed such as cooking, baking and gardening, teachers integrated it into student activities. GESM preschoolers, for example, learned about the letter “N” while making noodles at home.

Giving back

GESM thrives in the new normal education because the institution knows how to give back. Last December 2020, it raised P130,000 for several charities through its online event “A Series of Fortunate Christmas Events”

GESM helped and fostered a community of learners who are socially responsible.