

From Challenges to Progress: A Head Teacher's Journey in building a better learning environment
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As I walked in San Rafael Elementary School on my first day, I couldn't help but feel a sense of anticipation mixed with excitement. This was not only a new school, but also a new community with great challenge of another context on teaching and learning.

As a newly transferred school head at San Rafael Elementary School, I usually made my rounds and familiarize myself with the new set-up. Because it is still pandemic time during my transfer days, the classrooms were missing the usual bustle of students' laughter and learning. It was hard not to feel disheartened by the absence of the learners, but I knew we had to find a way to make this work out.

I called for a meeting with the teachers, and we began to brainstorm ways to adapt to the new situation. Despite the pandemic challenges, I was amazed at how quickly everyone adapted to the new situation. I knew that we needed to support our teachers as they transitioned to modular learning. Many of them did not have the necessary equipment to print and distribute modules for their learners. I know that we had to find a way to provide them with the resources they needed. That's where I launched the 'Tulong mo, Kinabukasan Mo' project. The project aimed to provide printers and coupon bonds supply for module printing. It was heartwarming to see the community's response to this project. Many people donated to the cause, and we were able to provide them the instructional materials.

This project was a testament to the cooperative and determined spirit of the San Rafael Elementary School community. We came together in a time of need and supported each other. It was a reminder that no matter how difficult things may seem, there is always hope and support available.

As the months went by, we gradually transitioned back to in-person classes, but the pandemic remained a constant concern. We implemented safety measures, such as temperature checks and regular sanitization, to ensure everyone's well-being.

San Rafael Elementary School has no grade three classroom and school office. However, the grade three class of the school is using makeshift room in the absence of classrooms and buildings. I have been pushing for the construction for our grade three learners, but funding has been a major issue.

I am thrilled to share that we have received much-needed support in our efforts to improve the learning environment at our school. Through the generosity of our stakeholders, we received construction materials worth P100,000.00 from former Mayor Remegio Villaluna, and so we are now able to begin constructing grade three classroom.



The community's support was invaluable during these difficult times. Parents worked with us by providing free labor for the construction of the grade three classroom and the school office. With the completion of our new classroom and school office, we are now setting our sights to more projects to further improve our school. We are excited to announce that we are planning to build a mini multi-purpose hall for our learners, which will serve as a venue for school events and activities.

We are grateful for the support we have received so far, and we hope to continue working with our community and stakeholders to achieve our goals.

Now, as I look back on my first year at San Rafael Elementary School, I am proud of what we accomplished. We faced unprecedented challenges, but we worked together to overcome them. I am grateful to be part of such a dedicated and cooperative community and look forward to what the future holds for our learners.

According to an author, "Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally, it comes from what you do consistently". With consistent collaboration and teamwork, I believe San Rafael ES will continue to soar high with regard its achievement.

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