

'Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students'. - Solomon Ortiz

From Principal's Desk

Dear parents and guardians,
Namaste!

Whole world including Pathshala family is still facing really challenging time due to COVID-19. All parents, management, teachers, non-teaching members and students are bearing with lots of psychological and situational pressure at the moment. However, all of us have come through so far, then, we shall overcome all kinds of challenges and stand out as 'survivors' till the end. Therefore, let us keep social distancing and strictly follow the precautions.

Let us be aware and stick to steps to be taken and build our immunity power for physical and mental strength. No matter what, let us keep calm and support one another to find out ways to deal with issues. Maintaining peace within self is the best idea to ensure the positive thought and action during time of dilemma.

We also have to understand that teaching online classes under the influence of disturbing scenario has to be handled very carefully. Psychological and physical state and need of age group of students, psychological state and social obligations of staff, etc. are the factors to be considered. SCREEN FACING TIME of students and teachers also must be well balanced because they must work on screen a lot before and after their classes for assignments, assessments, planning, material preparation, follow ups, etc. They already have 17 hrs direct online class in a week from grade VI -X and 12 hrs direct online class from grade II-V in a week. More periods with in depth classes, projects and more assignments are there in upcoming weeks.

I hope that everyone is very aware of the fact that screen-facing time has not only eye-sight problem but more dangerous problem of depression and other psychological impact of harmful rays. The long term impact can be adverse than we have expected if issues are not addressed on time. It is more complicated than face to face classes we used to have. Taking such things under consideration, we expect that our parents and guardians will support us with the updated ROUTINE of the classes.

Here I am with newsletter-II of the year. It mainly consists of following agendas:

1. Positive achievements of Online Classes
2. Challenges and possibilities
3. Upcoming plan to make it more effective and efficient
4. ATP Meet

Please, go through and provide feedback via mail to us or by sharing with respective grade teachers. As always, we also expect that our parents and guardians will read and support our students accordingly.

1. Positive achievements of Online Classes

Despite of some skills and technology based issues in the beginning, online classes started successfully in all classes. Some strategies like intensive observation, substitute classes management, situational meetings and orientation with teachers, short term technical workshops, strict orientation with students, communication with required parents, Sunday's department workshops, grade teachers-coordinators-principal-Board of Directors meetings, etc. helped to minimize challenges and make classes more effective and efficient.

- Modality of beginning of the session with emphasis to system introduction, sharing of curricular activities, expectations clarifications, etc. enabled to set democratic beginning.
- Then, curricular activities started with different activities like interaction, slide shows, videos, handouts reading, post lesson based classworks and homeworks.
- To help students to utilize their time for creative mind and to maintain mental or physical strength, Sundays are being utilized with classes of expressive arts like dance, music, arts and crafts alongwith physical education and yoga - meditation.
- As lockdown got extended, subjects like Occupational Business Technology Education, Computer, EPH and Optional subjects in grade IX and X.
- Class - Meeting schedule started to give platform for students to put their views and opinions online classes or other issues they have.

We are also very thankful to all parents and guardians who are active in viber groups of respective grades and providing immediate feedback, queries and suggestions. It has helped to run classes more effectively.

2. Challenges and possibilities

Classes are managed with substitute teachers and resource people to cover the course in all classes and to minimize the cancellation due to technical disturbances.

Few students used to leave behind the screen, chat with one another, forget to raise hand and wait for turn, not responding by doing video on or unmute. There was the problem of not submitting assignment, also lack of skill to upload or download documents. These were few major challenges faced in the beginning days but gradually minimized with the support of changes in procedures of class conduction, parents' observation, grade teacher's follow up and students' sense of responsibility. [

Class-meetings also motivate students to support the best way possible from their part.

Lack of basic books as references, stationeries unavailability, devices condition and electricity / net service also played important role to disturb classes at times. However, stationeries and books are available in the market. Devices can be repaired on time and net can be made powerful enough.

Note:

Hopefully, each student is clear about orientation given by teachers about keeping a copy for each subject and stationeries like pens, pencils, colour, felt pens, geometrical instruments, scissors, cello/masking tapes, staplers/pins, recommended materials of ECA classes, etc. ready (with a bit of stock in case of worse condition of COVID-19 or other and markets get closed). We must be prepared to face any challenges to make the classes effective and efficient for the long time.

3. Upcoming plan to make it more effective and efficient

Following major steps are being carried on according to the parents' feedback, monitoring department including coordinators and principal and feedback of Action Team Partnership.

- There will be some changes in the routine with one hour additional classes to be implemented from grade IV onwards and detailed information will be mailed soon.
- ECA groups to be separated from Shrawan.
- Motivational classes for students and teachers will be there by managing resource people.
- Grade teachers meeting with principals will be made more impactful with strong follow up. Similarly, subject teachers' meeting with grade teachers (Grade Team meeting) will also be started very soon to address subject based issues as soon as possible. It will help to minimize the problems of students' academic performances on time.
- **Terminal Examination will be held in the mid of Shrawan.**

a. ONGOING ASSESSMENT :

There will be 50 marks for ongoing assessment of students. It includes:

full hour attendance (5), class participation (5), class assignments (10), class tests (10), home assignments (10), project presentation (10)

Note:

➤ There will be only ongoing assessment for grade I, II and III. Therefore, they will have marks division as given:

full hour attendance (10), class participation (10), class assignments (20), class tests (20), home assignments (20), project (20)

➤ Project marks for Nepali and English Language Arts is carried on as Listening, Speaking and Reading tests for all grades which carries 20 marks. So, marks division is as follows for language arts subjects:

full hour attendance (5), class participation (5), class assignments (5), class tests (10) home assignments (5), project presentation (20)

- **WRITTEN TEST for grade IV onwards:**

50 marks is for written test.

Therefore, workshop for teachers will be held soon for appropriate software use concerning effective test-procedure. Teachers will conduct practice sessions for students to take tests.

4. ATP Meeting:

First meeting of the Action Team Partnership was held on 3 Ashadh (17th June) via MS Team Meet. The agendas were positive achievements of online classes, challenges, upcoming plan to make it more effective and financial issues, etc.

The namelist of respective ATP members will be attached in the mail with this Newsletter for your reference including responsibilities of ATP members. We have nominated members to represent few classes for year 2077 to avoid the condition of not having anyone.

The second round of meeting was again held on 10th Ashadh (24rd June). ATP members have shared collective opinions of respective parents. Some decisions have been taken with mutual understanding of ATP members and school management. The decisions will be shared to all parents soon.

Take care! Stay safe !

Regards,
Anita K. Tamang
(Principal)