

Title: The Secret Behind Pantingan Elementary School's Success

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Why is Pantingan Elem. School a consistent topnotcher of NAT (National Achievement Test) in the Division of Bataan?

Pantingan E/S is nine km. away from the national highway. It is found within a barangay where paradise nestles. The school is surrounded with the wide green rice fields, forest – green mountains and a solitary, soft- flowing river. It is a perfect, inspiring place which brings peace and serenity.

But this panoramic view does not hide the socio- economic status of the pupils studying in the said school. Most of their parents are poor farmers and unskilled workers. They only depend on what they can harvest and what work their neighbors can offer.

Despite their pathetic way of living, they believe that poverty is not a hindrance to success. Residents still resort to education as the key which will bring difference into their lives. Consequently, the empowered school head, who acted as a great leader, has gained strong support from the parents, teachers, Parents Teacher- Community Association (PTCA) and other stakeholders. With great passion for work, everyone carries out their responsibility using their utmost ability. The school head provides effective leadership and taps stakeholders who can invest time, money, and effort in order to make the school the real center of learning for school children. Interventions were provided to address pupils' weaknesses and find solutions to what ever problems the school may encounter. He has attained the educational goals he set for the school sacrifices equate success. Being a consistent topnocher in the Division of Bataan for the

National Achievement Test (NAT), Pantingan Elementary School has definitely earned the laurels of achievement.

Being one of the top performing schools in the Division of Bataan can be attributed to several factors:

- Active and efficient school head
- Competent, committed, caring and industrious teachers
- Supportive community people
- Inputs from outside the school
- Inclusion of DepEd Programs suited for the school
- Effective teaching strategies
- Well organized and active PTCA (Parents Teacher- Community Association)
- District and Division trainings
- School- family- community based interventions
- Focusing the teaching/learning on the educational outcomes
- Organizing data on children's performance-grade and attendance, physical coordination- health- nutrition- status
- Networking with NGO's and Alumni
- Preventing absenteeism and reducing drop-out
- Focusing teaching competence in English, Math & Science accompanied by remediation.

Aside from the above factors, the school was transformed through School Based Management (SBM) approach. It gave way to improve by granting the school head, teachers and parents control in the management of the school. Under SBM program, all

activities were successfully managed and properly documented. Transparency in disbursement, reporting and accounting of funds was valued. Establishment of open communication among the stakeholders which provided transparency helped a lot in proving that there is transparency in the management of the school.

In Pantingan E/S, no child is left behind because strong- Family- Community Partnership exists, that is the secret formula to our success.