

Luis Enrique M. Garcia



The COLF Journey

Table of Contents

- **Grade 4: First Year In**
- **Grade 5: Warming Up with Peers**
- **Grade 6: The End of the Journey**
- **Grades 7-9: Achievements from The New School**
- **Grade 10: The Unexpected Return**
- **Grade 11: The Best Year**
- **Grade 12: Taught at Home**

Grade 4: First Year In

I transferred to Community of Learners Foundation because I was not given a slot in my previous school. In addition to that, my parents have long known about this school and have wanted to put me here ever since first grade. They knew about the school because their friends had good remarks with regards to the school's way of teaching and how they are accommodating to students of all kinds.



Grade 4: First Year In

It was not a very difficult experience for me to blend in with my new classmates. This is because in my old school, they only spoke English, while at home, I spoke Filipino. My classmates here could speak either language and had similar interests as I did. The only thing that made it difficult for me was that I am shy in nature. In time, I warmed up to them and we all became friends.



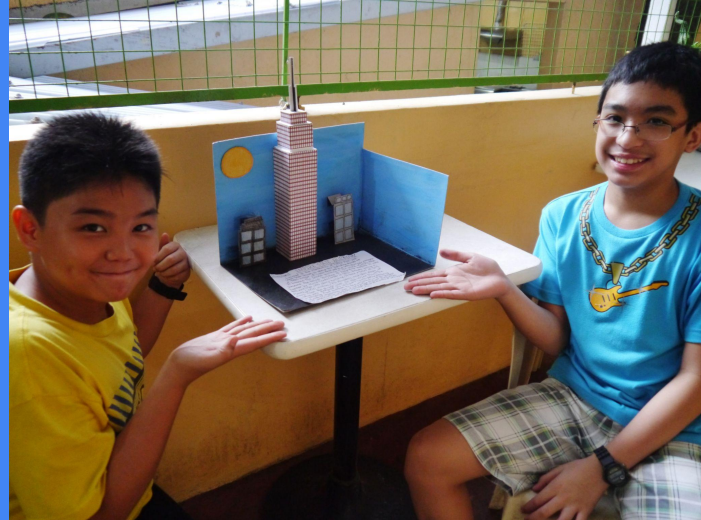
Grade 5: Warming Up with Peers

This year made my COLF experience in grade school much more memorable. There were a few new students whom I were able to bond with easily, as well as my classmates whom I have known for a year. In terms of academics, I still had quite a difficult time, but I understood how it worked. It was somehow similar to my previous school.



Grade 5: Warming Up with Peers

Fifth grade for me was one of the most memorable years I had in COLF. Although I was not really close with my classmates at the time, I figured that later in my high school life, the friendships I have made during this time were going to be my friends whom I would treasure for a lifetime. It was also the time when I got used to the system of COLF that would still be the same system they used as I returned in tenth grade.



Grade 6: The End of the Journey

It was during sixth grade that the school system of the country adapted to the K-12 program, wherein seventh grade was the entry point of high school. Since I always dreamt of going to La Salle Greenhills in high school, unfortunately, this was my final year in COLF, or that was what I initially thought.



Grade 6: The End of the Journey

I will forever remember sixth grade as the best year of my COLF grade school experience. The knowledge that COLF has given to me has brought me to greater heights as I entered La Salle Greenhills. Although it was difficult for me to adjust to their system, I passed the entrance exam with flying colors and I had high grades during my first year, especially my first quarter.



Grades 7-9: Achievements from The New School

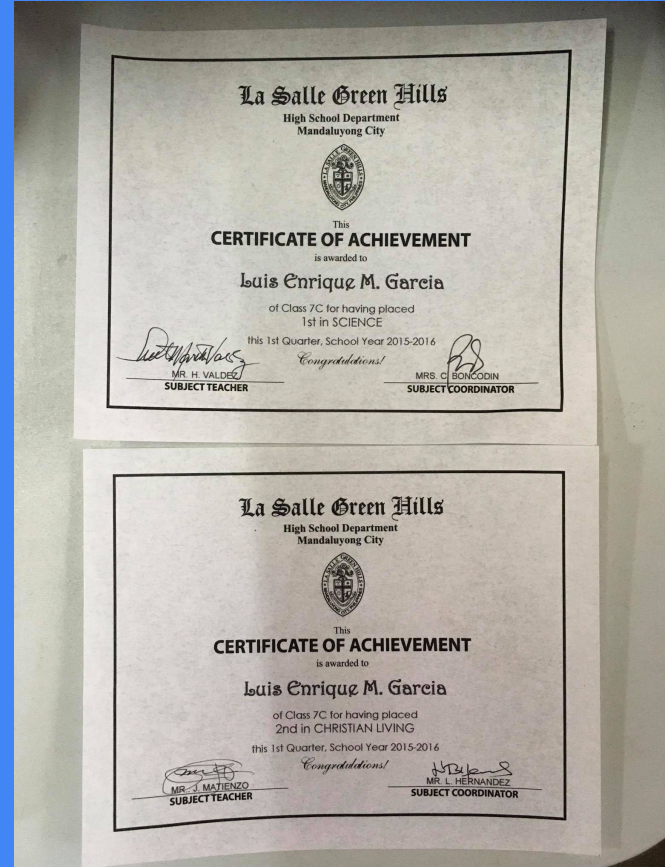
Without a doubt, it was difficult for me to adjust to the traditional school setup coming from COLF. There were around 400 students per batch and I was not friends with any of them at the moment. Teachers were also very strict during the first weeks of the quarter to make sure that students perform according to their standards.



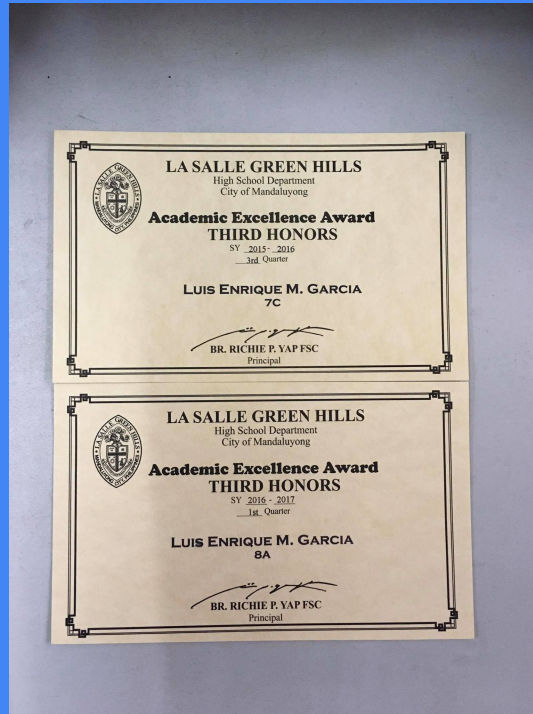
Grades 7-9: Achievements from The New School

Despite having to warm up to the new system that I was in, I was able to perform well in academics. In seventh grade, I became third in class, first in Science, second in Christian Living, and I was awarded with third honors twice. In eight grade, I was awarded with third honors. I was also awarded a certificate of appreciation for tutoring ALS learners, as I was part of the TASK program (Tulong Aral Sa Kapatid)

Grades 7-9: Achievements from The New School



Grades 7-9: Achievements from The New School



Grade 10: The Unexpected Return

As time went by, I realized that La Salle Greenhills was not for me. Finally, when I finished ninth grade, I wanted to go back to COLF. I knew that my heart belonged to it. Since I performed quite well in my previous school, and COLF was once my school, I was confident that I would be able to adjust right away. When I found out that I could go back, I took the opportunity.



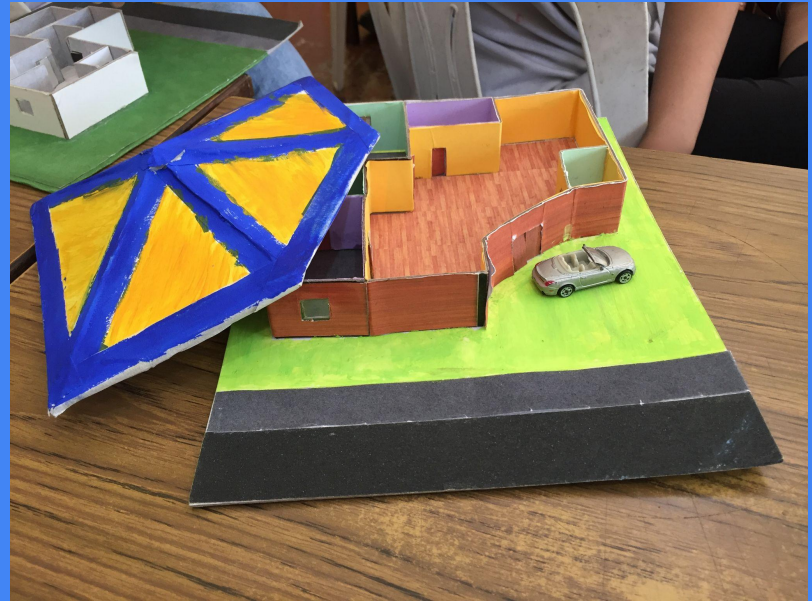
Grade 10: The Unexpected Return

Since I am shy in nature, even if I knew the people whom I were with, it seemed a bit difficult for me to warm up to my classmates. What made it difficult was that we barely had any common interests, since I was gone for three years. In a few months time, I was able to express myself and bring myself closer to my classmates once again. This time, we became even closer because we were more mature than when we last met in grade school.



Grade 10: The Unexpected Return

In terms of academics, it took me time to adjust, but it was not as difficult as when I had to do so in my previous school. I only needed to adjust to the completion system of COLF, which I barely remembered back in sixth grade. In my previous school, fewer requirements were given but the deadlines, too, were shorter.



Grade 11: The Best Year

Eleventh grade was a bit of a challenge for me since senior high school is much more challenging compared to junior high school. It had more complicated tasks and projects, as well as the workload. Either way, I managed to finish all that was asked of me.



Grade 11: The Best Year

Grade eleven for me was one of the best years of high school, if not the best year of my life. Not only did I become close to my classmates, but I knew the people whom I would consider my best friends for life, both in and out of school. Since I was old enough, I spent most of my time talking to them, going out with them, and celebrating small successes with them. Unfortunately, the school year got cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only was I not able to go to school, but this also stopped me from being able to go out of my home to meet up with my friends.

Grade 11: The Best Year



Grade 12: Taught at Home

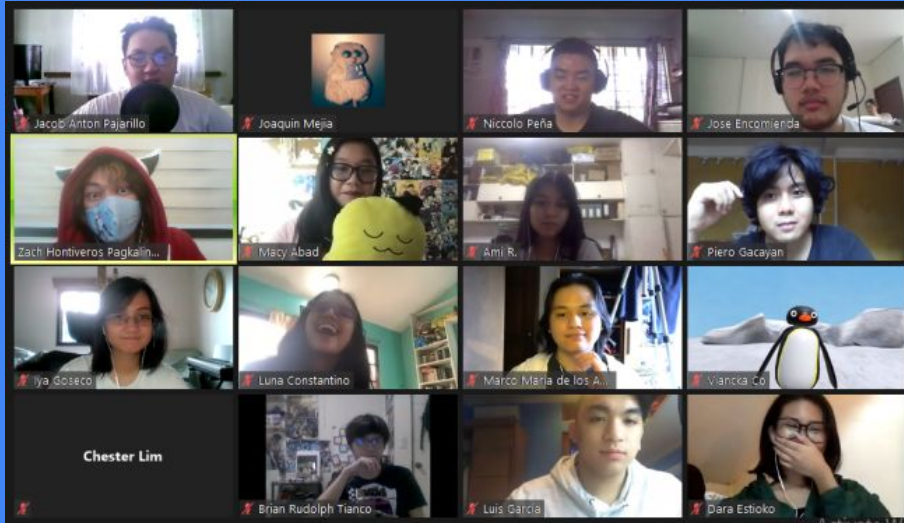
Nothing much happened in grade 12 when it came to my friends. Things were still the same between us, but we were not able to meet in person due to the conditions. In terms of academics, I once again had a difficult time adjusting to the new distance learning setup. This is because I am not used to working at home. Other than that, there were also factors that stopped me from working productively, such as the devices that I am using, as well as the internet connections.



Grade 12: Taught at Home

Despite the circumstances, I once again managed and was able to bring myself to completion. It was a tough journey, but I forced myself to work, compromise, and be productive. Now, I am near the end of the road. In a few days time, I will not be given the opportunity to march, but I will be graduating alongside my classmates, teachers, ayes, kuyas, parents, and loved ones. High school, especially my last year, was not an easy journey, but through continuous hard work and dedication, one is bound to achieve his/her goal.

Grade 12: Taught at Home



Summary/Lessons Learned

My entire time in high school was all about adjusting to different measures. At first I had to transfer to a different school, then I had to go back to COLF, then I had to adjust to senior high, and finally, the distance learning setup. It was a pretty long rocky road full of obstacles for me, but whenever I fell down, got lost, and stopped for a moment, I always found a way to get back up. Whenever I stood up from a fall, I made sure that I will be better than what I used to be. I made sure that I would be able to keep walking and to be mindful of what would make me fall so that I do not make myself vulnerable to the obstacles that come my way. Now, as I come near to the end, I will make sure to apply all that I have learned along the way. This is not the last journey that I would walk through, after all.

The End.



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Batch of 2021**