Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON
CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BIÑAN CITY

"STAR (STUDENTS TRANSPARENCY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT RECORD),
A monitoring tool to track the performance of Grade 8 Learners."

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ABSTRACT

The common demand of the students in public schools is to know how their grade is computed and to see the scores they get from their performances. To see the impact of transparency of grade to the learners and parents, this study applied STAR (Student's Transparency of Accomplishment Record) in Grade 8 section Iron. The result of this study determined that when students know the process of computing their grade, it became one of the factors that served as motivation to the students to study hard because they know their scores. Through transparency, students can assume in advance if they are going to pass or fail. With the implementation of STAR, most students were pressured to comply with their missed activity because they see their actual score in their written and performance record. Because of this, the students will have the accurate expectation of their grade because of their self-monitoring using STAR.

This study utilized Quantitative Research Design using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test, a non-parametric statistical hypothesis test to determine if there is a significant difference from Pre-Test and Post-Test of Grade 8 Section Iron who's the participants of this study. It also used Quantitative Survey Method to determine the feedback of the students who utilized the STAR. Findings revealed that the use of STAR is helpful for the students to be guided in their study and to serve as monitoring tool for their parents to check their child's performance in class. Despite the challenges faced by our students in their academics; with the help of STAR, they became transparently guided.

Keywords: Transparency, Students' Record, Performance, Self- Monitoring

INTRODUCTION

Star is a symbol that a student was eager to achieve at the first moment they enroll in school on their primary level. It is something students was so proud to have for every performance they did in school. Giving a star to a student for their small wins might give them the confidence to improve their performance. It is considered as a form of recognition and best practices which is a common strategy of a teacher to motivate learners. Student motivation affects every aspect of school life, from attendance to academic performance, to extra-curricular activities. (Baranek,1996)

Star in Elementary Education is usually a reflection of students' good performance in school that lead the learner to a better result at the end of the quarter. Star is a type of motivation which is the reason a person exhibits a behavior (Guay et al., 2010)

Whereas, in Secondary level, giving a star as a basis of good performance is not a practice, rather, students only seriously aspire is to have at least a passing grade. Most students in Junior High School are excited to see the result of their performance for every quarter during the card giving but there are cases that students get disappointed to see the result of their performance and ended up interrogating their subject teacher because there are students who are asking for transparency of the record. At the classroom level, transparency is part of course organization and teaching practices (Cuevas, Matveev, & Miller, 2010; Hativa, 1998). In the end, Teachers have the record to show to the students and student can't identify in their mind the accuracy of record because they do not have the tracer of their performance, some of them lost their output and some of them failed to tag the activities they did for them to recall which output was recorded, some of students do not even have the summary of activities done by the subject teacher. This disappoints some students that made them either use the situation as a challenge or use the situation for them not to perform on the next quarter because of disappointment.

Transparency of student's performance in every subject is very important. Ceuvas et al. (2010) broaden the concept of transparency, which includes the intentional alignment of course-level outcomes and instructional and learning activities. In this way students can track their record and it will serve as a proof of their expectation in every subject. Students Transparency of Accomplishment Record or the STAR helped the student to track the result of each of their performance in class that guided them for a better grade that they got at end of the quarter.

Students need to be guided not only in terms of lesson conducted by the teacher but also to be guided in achieving their goal. Aside of the impact of learning they get from the lesson of the teachers; students also aspire to receive a higher grade in their report card. In Grade 8 Section Iron, a heterogenous section, there were students who had a goal of getting a higher grade where they can be proud to show to their parents. Through STAR booklet, students were guided of the activities they need to accomplish, they studied more, behaved well and avoid absenteeism because they were aware that their performance, behavior and attendance was recorded in STAR. it was also the reference of the parents to monitor the performance of their children in school.

The findings of this study were extremely important in action planning. It has always been a problem for most students to be responsible of tracking their own accomplishments without asking the teacher where their record is not brought in the classroom day by day because it is directly recorded in their laptop. Most students always inquire to their subject teacher which output they need to comply but with the use of STAR booklet students can track their performance without asking their teachers. This could guide students which activities they need to do and can also update them whenever they have to be absent in school.

With the help of STAR booklet, the number of students who needed an intervention because of the failing grade could be lessen. The number of students at risk of failing and dropping out can also be easily identified.

METHODOLOGY

The study utilized both Qualitative and Quantitative Research Design. For Quantitative Method, the researcher used the non-parametric statistical hypothesis test using Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test to determine if there is a significant difference from Pre-Test which is the School Based Diagnostic Examination given in English subject and Post-Test which is the result of First Quarter School Based Periodic Test of Grade 8 Section Iron who served as the participants of this study. It also used Quantitative Survey Method to determine the feedback of the students who utilized the STAR.

The procedure for data collection were summarized below:

Phase I. Preparation Stage. Preparation and consultation of the procedures and objectives of this study. Crafting of all different tools and instruments to be utilized in the study. Checking and validation of the instruments.

Phase II. Data Gathering Stage. Identification of probable respondents of the study. Assignment of field researchers were assigned to gather data from the identified respondents. The researcher used the validated STAR and survey questionnaire for the data gathering procedure.

Phase III. Data Analysis Stage. Collection of answered survey questionnaire and encoding of Periodic Test result from the respondents. The researcher performed initial reading and familiarization of the transcript of responses. Categorizing all similar codes from the responses and form themes.

Phase IV. Summary and Interpretation Stage. Crafting of research summary through major domains of the study.

Phase V. Reporting. Crafting the final paper including the results and recommendations of the study. Present the result of the study.
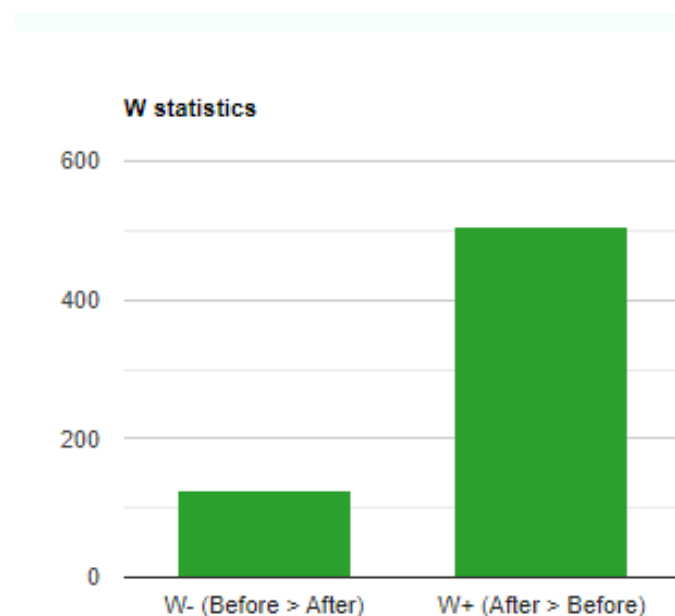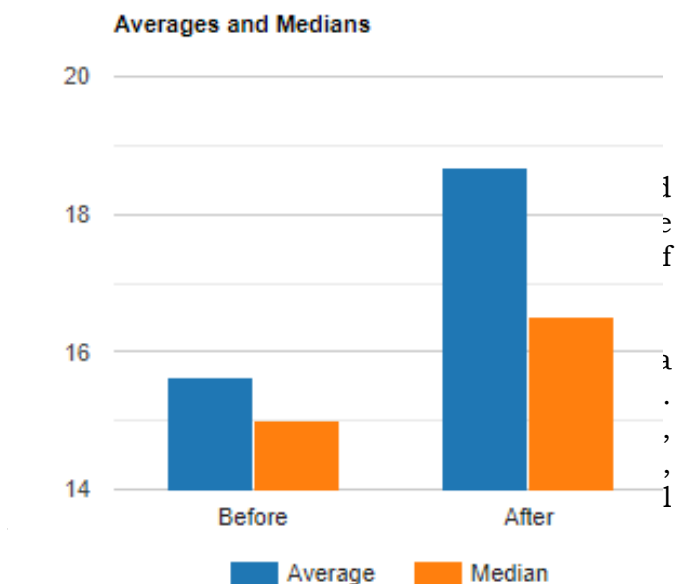
RESULTS

The survey results showed that 89% of the students in Grade 8 section Iron strongly agreed that STAR (Student's Transparency of Accomplishment Record) was useful to monitor self-performance and 11% of the students agreed. The same percentage of students who strongly agreed and agreed that STAR (Student's Transparency of Accomplishment Record) was efficient and effective. Furthermore, 83% of students strongly agreed that their record keeping of performance became more organized and 17% also agreed. Students who strongly agreed that their performance was easy to track were 74% and 23% agreed though 2% was neutral. When it comes to attendance 66% strongly agreed that STAR (Student's Transparency of Accomplishment Record) helped them to easily determine their attendance, 14% agreed yet there were 20% who were neutral.

STAR (Student's Transparency of Accomplishment Record) also targets to motivate students through feedback and 77% of students were strongly agreed that the quarterly feedback was helpful to improve self-performance, 20 percent were agreed and only 3% were neutral. The section in the STAR (Student's Transparency of Accomplishment Record) where in the misbehavior of the students were recorded to enhance student's discipline in class there were 80 % who strongly agreed. 20 % agreed and 6% were neutral. Also, 86% of the students in Grade 8 Iron strongly agreed that the STAR was advisable for them, 11% agreed and 1% was neutral. Furthermore, 40% of the students were strongly Agreed that STAR was easy to accomplish, 29% agreed though 14% were neutral and 17% disagreed. Finally, the students who strongly agreed that quarterly record of performance is motivating to improve students' performance with the use of STAR were 77%, 20% agreed and 3% were neutral.
In general, based on the survey, most of the students gave their positive feedback about the impact of STAR (Student's Transparency of Accomplishment Record) in their academic performance.

Based on the statistics using the Wilcoxon nonparametric test to determine the

significance in difference of School Based Diagnostic Test and Periodic Test.

Averages and Medians

W statistics

The table shows the Wilcoxon statistics that presents the difference of Diagnostic test and Periodic test result during the implementation of STAR (Students Transparency of Accomplishment Record.

The results show that using STAR (Students Transparency of Accomplishment Record is a helpful self-monitoring tool to assist students in their academics. In English 8, since students are aware of their scores as they see day by day the result of their performance in STAR, it gives them motivation to improve themselves on next written or performance task, especially those students who are afraid to fail and those who are aspiring to be in honor list.

Students had 8 subjects to study daily and the STAR (Students Transparency of Accomplishment Record) served as their reminder about their current performance in a subject. It also serves as a tool to notify students how often they are absent in class and most importantly, this also reminds students to always behave in class so they could avoid to have a negative record in their STAR.

Aside of it being the monitoring tool of the students, STAR (Students Transparency of Accomplishment Record also function as a guide and monitoring tool for the parents to see how their child perform in class. With the involvement of the parent to remind and give follow up to their child, the students might be more responsible in complying with the necessary written and performance task that the teacher is asking to do. Therefor at the end of the quarter, students could get a higher grade.

DISCUSSION

The result of the study answered the research question about the following:

- The result of the School Based Diagnostic Test has a mean of 15.6, indicating that most students got low scores in their exam.
- The result of School Based Periodic Test has a mean of 18.6, indicating that the scores in Grade 8 Iron improved in their Periodic Test while they are using STAR.
- The improvement of performance from the result of School Based Diagnostic Test and School Based Periodic Test indicated that the behavior and attendance of Grade 8 Section Iron also improved.

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- Based on the results of survey where in students gave their positive feedback, it indicated that STAR is effective in improving the performance of Grade 8 Iron. It made the teaching and learning process transparent in student's achievement.

Since the STAR (Students Transparency of Accomplishment Record) template had been proven effective; the teacher-researcher would like to recommend that the STAR Booklet should be used continuously until fourth quarter to determine its effectivity if applied in four quarters. Since this study only determined its effectivity in first quarter only.

The researcher also recommends this STAR booklet to be developed and improved that can be applicable also to all of the subjects and be utilized in all subject area. It is also recommended that parents be more concern and be more involved in academic performance of our students by taking the responsibility to check and monitor the performance of their child through the use of STAR Booklet. Students should also be responsible in keeping their own booklet to make sure that it will not be lost or duplicated by other students.

Most importantly, the school administration should support on the reproduction of the booklet through school MOOE to make it available for the use of the teachers and learners.

For the student as well as the parents, the emphasis on transparency of grades are important as a result of a desire for a more equitable grading system. Parents want to double check that their child gets graded in the same manner as all other students. However, with grading standards that involve intangibles such as classroom engagement, students discipline it can be difficult to assure that every score is "fair." From a teacher's aspect, transparency through STAR (Students Transparency of Accomplishment Record) adds legitimacy to each grade. Teachers can demonstrate cumulative cause and effect for each grade. Transparency does not have to eliminate grading subjectivity, but it should convey grade changes more swiftly and explicitly.

With the use of STAR (Students Transparency of Accomplishment Record) where students and parents have an instant access to see grades in written and performance such as test results, essays, assignment scores, and areas where a student is performing poorly. There is no reason to put off dealing with a problem until mid of the quarter or dealing with grade shock at the end of the grading period. Instead, parents can immediately identify problem areas and collaborate with teachers to develop a plan for improving student's grades.

When parents, students, and teachers have an understanding and agreements on transparency of grade because they monitor the information on students' performance as it becomes available using STAR (Student's Transparency of Accomplishment Record), it becomes easier to address problems. There are fewer delays in scheduling needed conferences, and students are more likely to reach out to teachers when they're available through messaging or calls. By using STAR, aside of enhancing students' sense of responsibility and commitment, this process of grading system, we can achieve transparency and improve student outcomes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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questionnaire and STAR Booklet and for sharing their expertise in the field.

To Mr. Jestonie M. Ordoñez, Master Teacher I and colleague at work for sharing his insights in the conduct of this action research. Also to Mr. George Caringal for being supportive who keeps on pushing me to finish this research.

To the learners of Grade 8- Iron for School Year 2021-2022, thank you for your active participation and cooperation.

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