

School Nurse Experience Reflection Questions

1. How has your view of the student population changed?

I feel like the only view that really only changed was how it seems as if they try taking advantage of having school nurses available. Not that they all do or will, but even at how creative some of the kids get with trying to find the excuse to apparently skip class. I wouldn't say my view changed much other than that.

2. How has your view of the school nurse role changed?

In this high school role, a big appreciation for the school nurses! I see how they have to really pay attention to patterns of students who have a habit of missing class, or school. Those who need to speak with counselors and help them in other ways not just by medication. There is a lot of teaching that I witnessed such as "you need to eat something when taking your antibiotic, the need to carry your inhaler with you, you can only take this much for this dose." The different roles a school nurse plays in these kids lives. The need for more school nurse subs was something I didn't realize as well. Definitely a whole other type of respect for those who are school nurses.

3. What surprised you about the school nurse experience?

It was interesting to see at how in a High School setting, the students try in some way take advantage of having a nurse on campus. I could tell those who would come in and really need to be seen or needing to take their scheduled medications. Then there were those who were trying to skip class, or use the nurse as a stopping stop, before trying to get to where they were really wanting to go. So much that the school had just implemented a new system in their computers for teachers to be able to communicate with the nurses letting them know when the student was headed their way. Once the student made it into the office, the nurse would click "Arrive," and a clock would start running timing how long the student was in the nurses office. Once the student was done, the nurse would go back onto the computer and click a button showing that the student was done and out of the office, letting the teacher know the time they walked out. Logging everything from the start, how long, what was done, and when it was all done, giving the student an "e-pass" to head back to class. Also how the nurses still document everything the way you would in a hospital setting, except at school the nurses have access to grades, tardies, absences, and what activities they are involved in.

4. What did you observe during your time there?

I was able to observe the "regulars," which are the kids who have any excuse to go to the nurses office, and the nurses make sure to look into and explore why or what is going on as to why they keep trying to skip classes. A lot of nose bleeds, a burn from cooking class, psych situations, upset stomachs, diabetics, asthma, and those needing to test for covid or strep.

5. How was your experience different from what you expected?

I think I was expecting more of maybe sports related injuries, or girls coming in for women hygiene products, and didn't expect to see so many kids trying to skip class! I was shown a "go bag" for when they have to go all the way to a different location on the school if someone gets injured. Which is something I didn't expect or think about not realizing how big the school is. I guess it never crossed my mind since I went to such a small school compared the Friendship High School. Also, the traffic, I did not expect the traffic!

6. What are some of the needs/issues related to the health of the school age children that you may not have been aware of?

Some of the needs that I was not aware of was how many seventeen years old move out of their parents home or decide to move out on their own and don't realize that they still need health insurance, but now don't have any? The nurses mentioned how some of them move out and once their parents remove them from their health insurance plans, how the nurses there work with local resources to try and help those students out and seek medical care. I wasn't aware on how many students have to monitor their blood pressure for a month and then submit those results to their primary doctors.

7. Please list two developmental stages related to the population that you observed.

1. A boy came in with his friends laughing and joking around, when he was the only one needing to come into the office. I could see these were a group of boys who were involved in athletics and the importance of having "peers" in this age group.

2. A girl coming in needing a tampon, and when we told her we only had pads, she was disappointed to know we only had pads. The nurse asked her if she had asked any of her friends for a tampon and the girl got quiet and said no. It reminded me what it feels like to be in high school and be super shy when asking for something like that!