School Nurse Experience Reflection Questions

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

   The amount of students who come to the school nurse just to be able to talk in a safe place. I got to see first-hand the kids who are seen as, they only want to go to the nurse to get candy or a mint. When in reality these kids come to also talk about their home life, or come get a snack because some of them don't have food at home.

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

   Today my nurse not only got to take care of children at her school, but she also has developed a motherly relationship with some of her kids that have scheduled meds. They come to her for not only medical attention but when they need emotional support. It showed me that a school nurse is more than just passing meds or handing out mints.

3. What surprised you about the school nurse experience?

   I was thoroughly surprised that my nurse had a charting system at her school. She would have to chart for every kid that came in to be seen or every med that was given, it had to be documented.

4. What did you observe during your time there?

   While I was at Atkins, I got to watch my nurse prepare her morning meds for her kids that were scheduled to take them at 0830. She showed me and walked me though her charting system and her nurse passes that she requires the teachers to fill out for students to come and see her.

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

   During my rotation we had a boy come in that was suspected of drug use, and the school's protocol is that the nurse is to take vital signs and do a small assessment over the child. I did not expect for drug usage to be so prevalent in such young kids.

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?

   I didn't realize how many children struggle with mental illness, there were so many kids that came in today for medications for ADD, ADHD, anxiety, depression and among so many other illnesses. What shocked me the most is how many were getting help for it.

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

   The two main developmental stages I saw were, identity vs. role confusion and good boy- nice girl.