

## A Day In the GHS Nurse's Office

Standing in my office doorway, I greet the students as they enter the building. I spend each day ensuring the children are healthy and ready to learn while assessing and caring for a variety of illnesses and injuries throughout the day.

We have regular visitors for chronic conditions and scheduled medications, including a student who has a feeding tube, as well as students wanting to avoid class for various reasons, and walk-ins with a nosebleed, a lost baby tooth, or a bumped head. Recess brings a whole new set of minor injuries requiring ice packs, band-aids and hugs. All student visits are charted in the electronic health record system.

Along with attending to the students' health care needs, I've gone into the Pre-K classrooms to fill the part of "community helper." We often provide social-emotional support for the children. I have clean clothes for students as needed. The bathroom in my office is accessible to students no longer allowed to use hallway bathrooms and those with bathroom anxiety. When students are in the Safe Room, I conduct seclusion evaluations every 15 minutes as needed. We also assess/treat the adults injured in assisting a dysregulated student.

In addition to maintaining physical and immunization records for 600+ students, including hearing and vision screening, We maintain an open line of communication with parents as well as CPS on the Reservation and I am in contact with DCF as necessary.

At the end of the day, during which I see an average of 50-70 students, I'm back in my doorway sending the students off with a wave and a smile. Now it's time to catch up on paperwork, make phone calls, and put the office back together for another day.

Nikki Allen, RN