

21st Century School Nursing: It's Not Just Ice Packs and Band-Aids!

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I started out as a elementary school teacher, but my family's move to Bismarck left me unemployed, so I applied to Medcenter One College of Nursing after applying at the school district. I worked in the Medcenter One/Sanford Children's Hospital, Peds hem/onc clinic and worked in management for Medcenter One, managing the walk-in clinics, pediatric clinic, ENT and orthopedic clinics. I then returned back to Peds Hem/Onc which I LOVED, but in the summer of 2017, Bismarck Public Schools had a position for a school nurse coordinator. My dream job! Both my careers together! I went into the position not having a clue what the role of a school nurse really was, as I grew up in a small town without school nurses. I learned quickly and learned a lot! Then COVID happened.

The school nurse role moved to the forefront of the school district. Many lessons learned, but so much love for this amazing career I have! My husband and I live with our two rescue dogs and our son who recently moved home to student teach this fall. We also have a daughter teaching in Park Rapids, MN.

So often, the role of the school nurse is not completely understood. What is the day in the life of a school nurse like? How has the role evolved? Why are school nurses needed now more than ever?

