

## Alberta School Hopes to Start a Health Science Trend in Canada



### Father Patrick Mercredi High School

**SCHOOL TYPE:**  
High School

**COURSE TITLES:**

- Medical Terminology
- Health Care
- First Responder
- Foundations of Health Science

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### Introduction

Word is getting around in Alberta, Canada about the Science and Technology program at Father Patrick Mercredi High School. The program includes introductory courses for careers involving power engineering, information technology, welding, and health science. In fact, the school has had several visitors in to see their remarkable new building and program which includes HealthCenter21. Health science teacher, Stephanie Avery, has spent the past two years developing the health science program to introduce students to career options in the health science field while also preparing them for a great start towards those career goals.

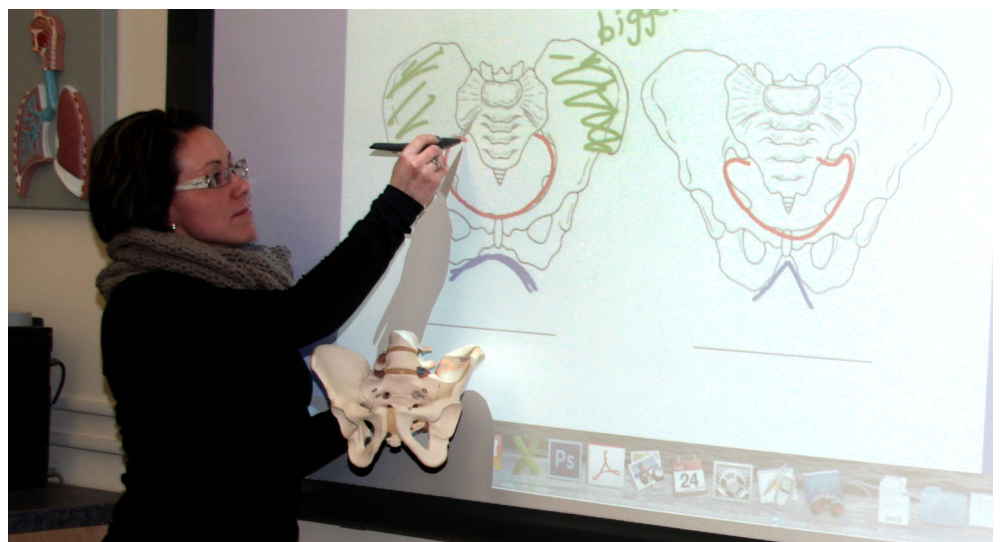
### How it all Started

The school purchased HealthCenter21 at the same time that they started the health science program. Deborah Kitching, Avery's coordinator, found the program and thought it would be a very useful tool. "And it is! It's wonderful to help support the program and to teach students above and beyond, instead of always having to use lecture," Avery says. "It offers them things that I

can't because I'm not a nurse." Avery's background is science and biology. "Without HealthCenter21, there would be a massive hole in the program. HealthCenter21 is a huge support. The health science program here was not designed around HealthCenter21, but it's become a huge part of the program."

### Blended Learning Approach Provides Many Benefits

Avery uses HealthCenter21 in a truly blended approach to teaching and learning. She mixes online learning using HealthCenter21 with workbooks and activities that she's developed. And there is lecture. With her students ranging in age from 15 to 18, Avery emphasizes, "I need to teach. Some of the more complex content requires more than just one touch with online learning." So, blended learning is ideal for her courses. Students are learning in a variety of ways, including online, teacher-led lecture, clinicals, hands-on activities, and power points.



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she explains.



When students are assigned online work in HealthCenter21, Avery makes herself available to students. She walks around the classroom answering questions that come up. She’s a facilitator during these moments, or as she describes, “I’m still here, but they are doing the work.” And while she facilitates, she asks students questions, as well. If students struggle with concepts they’ve learned online, this allows Avery to see which material they can do solely online and what material she will need to go over with them in another way.

## Battling Student Boredom and Absenteeism

As with all teachers, Avery fights to keep student engagement high and student boredom low. She credits blending so many tools into her classroom as a key in keeping students engaged. With the high variety of learning opportunities, her students “don’t have a chance to get bored!” And if they get to a more lengthy skills section online, Avery motivates students by getting them excited about the hands-on activities and clinicals that will follow the lessons.

Avery also appreciates the anytime/anywhere aspect of HealthCenter21. “It’s a huge assistance because they can finish at home if needed,” she explains. Fewer students fall behind due to absenteeism.

## What’s Next?

What’s next for students? Avery has happily written some letters of reference for students that have graduated and decided to pursue careers in health science. She has helped prepare some future physiotherapists and medical technologists. The program also helps prepare students for pursuing careers as nurses, doctors, and EMTs. “It’s been pretty amazing,” Avery explains, to see students come into the program and begin looking towards their future careers.



## About AES

Applied Educational Systems (AES) provides cloud-based blended learning solutions for career readiness courses at secondary and post secondary schools. AES works with school administrators and instructors to improve health science, allied health, introductory business, IT and computer applications courses. AES offers free trial of its blended learning solutions at <http://learn.aeseducation.com/trial-sign-up>



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