

HealthCenter21 a Huge Time-Saver for Houston ISD Health Science Teacher



**Houston Independent School District
Reagan High School**

SCHOOL TYPE:
High School

COURSE TITLES:

- Health Science
- Principles of Health Science

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We all know that blended learning is an effective method of reaching and engaging students. Byronica Pickney makes blended learning look easy as she combines a variety of tools, including HealthCenter21, to achieve the optimal blend that works with her students.

The Setup

Pickney teaches Health Science and Principles of Health Science courses to primarily 9th and 10th graders at Reagan High School in the Houston ISD. “We are a career prep class,” Pickney explains. They talk about careers and entry level occupations in healthcare, such as nurse assistant, lab assistant, and medical records assistant, to name a few.

Her Perfect Blend

Pickney uses a variety of tools and methods to make sure that she and her students are making the most of their classroom time. A typical class for Pickney and her students includes some introductory lecture, often accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, followed by some textbook learning, and rounding out with online learning with HealthCenter21.

Pickney was a nurse prior to becoming an instructor, so her lecture time is often an opportunity for her to share some of her real work experience in a hospital.

Pickney describes a recent class this way:

“We start the class by discussing a health science topic, for example the skeletal system. We talk about the anatomy and physiology of the skeletal system. I show images of what skeletal disorders and diseases might look like. Then we discuss career paths related to the skeletal system.”

In more detail, during this lesson, Pickney uses lecture when she shares her hospital

experience related to skeletal issues. Then they move on to the textbook to learn some anatomy and discover careers related to the skeletal system. Finally, they log on to HealthCenter21 for visual reinforcement, checks for understanding, drag and drop games of skeletal locations and skeletal terminology. Pickney particularly relies on the online program to help students learn to pronounce terms correctly. “With HealthCenter21, students get audio, visual, and kinesthetic learning all in one place,” Pickney explains.

Online Learning Is an Engaging Tool

Pickney describes herself as an advocate for the HealthCenter21 program “because it actually helps with my limited English and special needs students. They can go at their own paces and have it read to them. And, for my advanced students, it works, too. They prefer to read the content themselves. So it helps for all students.”

What do Pickney’s students think about online learning with HealthCenter21? “They like it. That’s where society is heading. They are used to it. They can navigate the system. They know the pattern: lecture, textbook, online. If they are absent, they can work from home or work on their cell phones.”

Pickney added that with some of the newest components of the online version of HealthCenter21, “the students are responding very well to HealthCenter21 and feel like they are actually in the workforce. I’m getting really good reviews from students on that.”

I think the enrollment process is really easy! Students get to use their own passwords, less likely to forget. Little things like this just helps move things along, making it easier to get started.”

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HealthCenter21, a Huge Time-Saver

So how does HealthCenter21 benefit Pickney? She says, “It allows me to keep track of how students are doing. I can see if they’re logged on...because they are high school kids, so they’ll try to close the program and listen to music or something. But I can monitor them and see their progress.”

Pickney adds that the teacher features in HealthCenter21 are a huge time-saver. And that’s no joke considering that Pickney has six classes, ranging from 15 to 28 students, that meet every day! “I can run reports and easily transfer from HealthCenter21 to my school’s grading system, it’s all lined up in perfect format so I can pull the grades into my gradebook.”

Thank you to Byronica Pickney for sharing how she successfully blends tools and teaching methods in her classroom.



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