

Distinguished Teacher Gets a Little Help from HealthCenter21



Paul Robeson High School in Philadelphia

SCHOOL TYPE:
High School

COURSE TITLE:
• Health Related Technology

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Megan Kelly is an exceptional health science teacher at Paul Robeson High School in the School District of Philadelphia. How exceptional? Kelly recently received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in May 2014. Teachers are nominated by their peers. And that's remarkable, as Kelly was a nurse practitioner for many years before becoming a teacher.

A typical day...

Kelly starts her 90 minute daily classes with a Do Now question. Do Now questions are a district-wide activity that help students focus. They are expected to answer the question in 5-8 minutes. From there, Kelly leads a review from the previous day's lessons. Next, she reviews with students the objectives for today's lesson. They go over the Do Now question.

Then it's time for students to log on to HealthCenter21 for the day's lesson or begin work on something else that she's prepared. And classroom work is used in conjunction use the textbook and/or Internet articles, as well.

After leading students through instructions, they might be left to do something in pairs or some independent work. Class ends with an exit ticket and a review of the day's objectives.

That's a lot of activity packed into 90 minutes. However, Kelly's blended learning approach keeps students engaged and on-task.

More than just great curriculum...

When asked what she likes best about HealthCenter21, Kelly responds, "I've been a nurse for a long time, but I struggled a bit when I became a teacher with how to

deliver a lesson. HealthCenter21 provides a good outline for me to deliver a lesson."

Kelly adds that HealthCenter21 cuts down on her prep time with PowerPoints, tests, and test questions that she doesn't have to create.

What students think...

In regards to students, Kelly explains that the days that the students are working on their own on the computers, HealthCenter21 is "helpful in getting them used to working on computer, following directions, and reading on the computer." She adds that she's "thankful for the vocab that they get in the program. Vocab is a struggle in their program because it's new and different from what they have in other classes." Students also appreciate the instant feedback on quizzes and tests, so they know how they are doing.

HealthCenter21, a helpful resource...

Overall, Kelly says that HealthCenter21 is "such a helpful reference. It's helpful for me as a teacher presenting lesson. I love the Check for Understanding questions, which help me to know whether or not students are getting the objectives. It's just such a



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Kelly says.

really good reference for the kids to have and for me to have and it’s something the students need to get used to.” Without it, Kelly says, “it would increase my prep time because I would have to create the lessons.”

One other item in HealthCenter21 that Kelly appreciates are the checklists for skills mastery, saying, “The language in HealthCenter21 is clear-cut. Students can read it and understand ‘this is what I have to do’ and ‘do I pass or do I not pass?’” She adds, “The textbook has more steps than are necessary. HealthCenter21 combines those steps in a way that’s more user-friendly for the students and for me.” Kelly has student nurses come in and evaluate her students on skills according to those checklists. She does not worry that the student nurses didn’t understand what they were checking with these lists.

At the end of Kelly’s course, students take the NOCTI Health Assisting certification exam. Her students pass with competent and advanced ratings.

Her final word on HealthCenter21?
“I’m grateful for it. There’s so much stuff in there!”



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