

Interview with a Health Science Teacher



Spring Branch Independent School District

SCHOOL TYPE:
High School

COURSE TITLES:

- Principles of Health Science
- Health Science

CONTACT:
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Recently, AES was able to talk to health science teacher and assistant athletic trainer Sean Plake. Plake is an instructor at Stratford High School (Spring Branch ISD) in Houston, Texas. In a brief interview, Plake was able to describe how he uses HealthCenter21 in his classroom.

Interview

AES: What courses do you teach?

Plake: I teach two sections of Principles of Health Science for 1st year students and one section of Health Science for 2nd year students.

AES: What age group do you teach? Who makes up your class? Describe your students.

Plake: My students range from sophomores to seniors. They are from different cultural backgrounds and different socio-economic backgrounds. The group is mostly female at a ratio of about 2:1.

AES: What is a typical day like in your classroom? What tools do you use? How do you use them?

Plake: A typical day starts with 5-10 medical abbreviations, while I am taking attendance. Afterwards, we review the last class lesson before starting any new material. Typically, I use HealthCenter21 in addition to the lesson. The HealthCenter21 lessons help the students in learning the information.

AES: What is the greatest challenge in your classroom?

Plake: The greatest challenge that I have had over the past 10-11 years is being able to get the students who are absent caught up with the assignments. As teachers, we

tell the students it is their responsibility to find out what they missed and when they can make it up. But, there are those students who are not very responsible that need that push to get back on track. Finding time during my day can be tough, but I cannot do all of the legwork. My classes are not taught by another teacher, so the student cannot get help from another teacher for the lesson. Therefore, the student must show the initiative to come before or after school to make up their work. I have found a 70% success rate, but I would like to get that to 95-100%.

AES: What has been your greatest success in your classroom?

Plake: My greatest success in the classroom over the years have been watching the students becoming successful after high school and achieving their dreams that were just notes on a piece of paper during their sophomore and junior years. I have had students become teachers, soldiers in the military and athletic trainers (my passion and the other half of my school responsibilities). Also, hearing that student come by and say "hi" or "thank you" is the biggest achievement as a teacher.

AES: Has HealthCenter21 changed how you do anything in your classroom?

Plake: Yes, I have used HealthCenter21 as a supplement to the lessons. I also use the quiz and test grades to measure the success rate of the students' knowledge.

AES: What do you like best about HealthCenter21?

Plake: As a teacher, I like that it gives the students the responsibility of learning the information so they can pass the test.

“As a teacher, I like that [HealthCenter21] gives the students the responsibility of learning the information so they can pass the test.”

says Sean Plake



AES: What do your students like best about HealthCenter21?

Plake: The students have conveyed to me that they enjoy the ability to cover the content at their own pace. They also feel they are not rushed through the lesson.

AES: Before HealthCenter21, how did you cover the content that is now covered with it?

Plake: I covered the class content using the textbook, information that I have obtained, and any current information that is available.

Conclusion

As Plake has described, online learning tools like HealthCenter21 can help create a well-balanced, cohesive blended learning environment. Additionally, the immediate and on-going feedback help teachers and students alike determine where they are and where they need to go next. Thank you, Sean, for sharing your experience and insight.



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