

## Health Sciences High and Middle College Brings College-Level Courses to 10th Graders



### Health Sciences High and Middle College

#### SCHOOL TYPE:

Health-Focused Charter School with partnerships with San Diego City and Mesa Colleges

#### COURSE TITLES:

- Medical Terminology
- Anatomy and Physiology

#### CONTACT:

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<http://www.hshmc.org/>

Health Sciences High and Middle College is a remarkable public charter school in San Diego. “A diploma that matters” is their motto. They give high school students a head-start in health science careers. Results at the end of high school are a certificate for employment or options to continue their education at a four year college. The school draws students from a huge geographical area from all over San Diego County to Carlsbad to the US/Mexico border and out to the Foothills. The result? A largely diverse student population with a wide range of needs and abilities. Even more challenging... finding college-level content that works for high school students.

### Situation

Because the HSHMC is leading students towards certification in health science careers, they have to cover content typically geared towards older students. Jeff Bonine, an instructor at Health Sciences High & Middle College, teaches Medical Terminology and Anatomy and Physiology to 10th graders. The greatest challenge that Bonine faces is getting the typically college-level content to resonate with his 10th grade students. “How do we get that high-level content down to our 10th graders?” Bonine asks. “Textbooks,” he explains, “are not accessible, and are often not engaging or interactive.”

### Solution

With the technological ease of an online product, Bonine is using HealthCenter21 to successfully teach college-level curriculum to his 10th grade students.

Several years ago, Bonine used the server-based version of HealthCenter21 as a solution. Although this curriculum was effective, the logistics of the server-based system were a real struggle for Health

Sciences High & Middle College at that time. And so they essentially abandoned it as a solution. Until last year when they discovered that HealthCenter21 is now available online.

Now, Bonine sees his 10th grade students one day a week in health classes and they also do a day in an internship in the hospital. During their 90 minute class, Bonine uses HealthCenter21 online to frontload the content for students. Students are given time to work on HealthCenter21 during class time. What they don't finish in class, they complete as homework, another great benefit of the anywhere/anytime online program.

After an allotted time, Bonine brings students together for some “lecture” time, where he can interact with students. During lecture, he reviews what they've learned online and in some cases, delves a little deeper. Most importantly, he's able to use the time to answer questions or help clear up any misunderstandings students may have about what they've learned. The class rotates through HealthCenter21, lecture, and other components to reinforce what they learn online, their initial exposure to the content.

### Results

“HealthCenter21 provides strong areas of content. I am comfortable that if students go through this, that when they come to lecture, I don't have to spend time going over a lot of the basics, we can delve into more detail or more practice with the content. They go through it, then we practice, manipulate, and talk about content,” Bonine explains. “Lessons are really straight-forward, not wordy, clean. Content is broken up into small chunks. It's presented in a way that is not overwhelming,” he adds.

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Bonine appreciates the online program as the school is moving more toward blended learning. “This is a nice component for the health program,” he says.

Additionally, with the diversity of students and their needs and abilities, HealthCenter21 works, as some students really enjoy hearing it read. “And hearing it read along with reading along on screen is a huge support for those students,” Bonine says. “Other students can listen to just vocab words and hear how words are pronounced without having to listen to the entire narration,” he explains. “This type of program with its narrations and images is much more engaging than traditional textbooks. In addition, these extra features makes the content much more accessible to all students,” he adds.

Bonine likes the new look for instructors where you can quickly look and see where students are. “I like the fact that he can quickly view grades and see where they are struggling,” he says.



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