

Health Science Education

Certification, dual credits place students ahead of rest

Cooties Count was written on the blackboard, followed by seven dates. "In one 24-hour period of time, how many people do you come into contact with?" asked the Bluffton Health Science teacher Kathi Plummer.

"Your homework is to keep track of the number of contacts you have during the next week to find out how many people you could have infected with a disease."

The students from Wells county --Bluffton, Norwell and Southern Wells -- were learning about the treatment and prevention of disease in their Health Science Education class led by 28th year teacher/RN Plummer.

"Even if they (students) don't want to go into the health field, this class is a helpful one for all students to take because everyone needs to be health conscious consumers," Plummer said.

In addition to the work on medical terminology – Latin

based prefixes and suffixes – Plummer had a plan to connect the lesson with an experience.

"Okay class, you're going to be infected with "Glo-Germ," the Bluffton Health Science teacher said.

The third-hour class looked around the room at each other, as they dutifully held out their hands while their teacher squeezed some fluorescent goop on them, telling them to rub it in.

"Now, everyone go and wash your hands the way I showed you to scrub up," Plummer continued.

The students took off their rings and watches, standing over the sink for minutes scrubbing their hands: front, sides and

back; fingertips to wrists.

The teacher flipped off the overhead classroom lights and turned on a black light to examine each student's hands. Wherever the hands glowed orange indicated an area where the "germs" still resided and were not removed due to ineffective hand washing.

Bluffton senior Mallory Bowman sighed dejectedly.

"I need to wash my hands better, I guess." The backs of her hands glowed orange.

The value of the lesson was clear. Germs reside everywhere. It is imperative for individuals in the nursing profession and other medical-related fields to know the basics of cleanliness in our

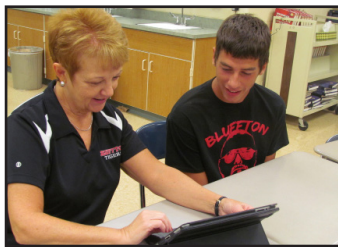
daily contact with each other and when taking care of future patients.

Decked out in school colors, Bluffton senior Rachel Emshwiller was serious about the class, since she wanted to honor her grandmother by becoming a nurse too.

"After I get my CNA, I plan to travel to Haiti to help out at the orphanages there."

Students will spend half of their class time during the second semester in clinical experiences at Bluffton Regional Medical Center and other local health care providers. Students will rotate through a variety of patient care areas including pediatrics, obstetrics, coronary care and long-term care, according to Plummer.

The rigorous class studies, clinical hours, Ivy Tech college credits and the potential CNA certification make the decision to take Health Science Education a potentially life-changing choice.



Bluffton senior Brendan Baumgartner works with instructor Kathi Plummer on the iPad. "The best part about the class is learning medical terminology which helps me with other classes too." Brendan plans to attend IPFW.



"My mom is a CNA at Heritage Point in Warren and encouraged me to take the class. The class is hard, but I'm learning to work harder."

KAYLIE McCAMMON, SENIOR
SOUTHERN WELLS HIGH SCHOOL



"I wanted to see what the medical field would be like. I like people and caring for them. My aunt works at the Marion Veteran's Hospital and really likes it."

KATELYN KLINE, JUNIOR
SOUTHERN WELLS HIGH SCHOOL

Students in Kathi Plummer's Health Science Education class accept "Glo Germs" to gauge the effectiveness of their hand washing routines. Hands were then examined under a black light to determine areas where germs hide. "I'm planning to get my CNA certification following this class so that I will have a good job through college," senior Tyler Sanford said.

