

Evet Pugh Community Experience

On November 11, 2010 I arrived at Timken Senior High School to help the school nurse perform vision and hearing screenings on the freshman class. I was joined by two of my classmates and two students from Malone for the morning session of screenings. In the down time between screenings the audiologists showed us how they tested to see if there was any hearing loss and also how they conducted the vision screening and the state mandated requirements for passing. The state mandates that a child has passed the vision screening if they can see at a 30/30 level instead of the typical 20/20 level. We screened around 300 freshmen and many did not pass the vision screening even some who had glasses on, I found this mind blowing. To have a child have glasses and still not be able to pass a screening is so sad. Things that most people take for granted like vision and hearing are a struggle for a lot of these children and it upsets me greatly, it really delays these children in the learning process.

Our main purpose in the morning was to learn about the process and conduct crowd control so the nurses could do a thorough job. I found it interesting that on days like this school nurses from the surrounding schools in the district came and helped to make the process run faster and so that no child would be missed. Before lunch I was talking with the schools nurse and felt bad for her because all of us were slotted to leave soon and they still had the afternoon classes to screen. I informed her that if she would like my help that after lunch I would return and help with the afternoon screenings and I'm so glad that I did because she permitted me to do the afternoon vision screenings. It was amazing observing others do this was nice but getting to be hands on really makes you appreciate what these nurses are trying to do.

Timken High School has a clinic and the nurse was telling me that due to the economic standings of most of the children in attendance use the clinic as an emergency room instead of what it was designed for which is information. The clinic was designed to give students information about how to prevent infection, pregnancy and communicable diseases and to see to children who get ill or injured while at school. Overall I had a wonderful experience and learned a lot and was informed that if in the future I want to do my community rotation there to call her and she would make the arrangements, so I thought that was great.