

MY Health-e-Schools:

Improving School Performance Through Better Access to Health Care

Imagine the possibility of children in Western North Carolina having access to skilled medical care in our local schools. Imagine the day when parents do not have to take off of work for a full day to pick their child up from school, squeeze in an appointment at a busy doctor's office, and spend hours waiting to get their child evaluated. There is no need for imagination, as this is a reality for 2,400 students in Mitchell and Yancey counties and the number is growing.

The MY Health-e-Schools school-based telemedicine program uses high-definition videoconferencing, allowing a nurse practitioner located at a central site to see a student without him or her leaving school. When a student is sick at school, the school nurse uses specially equipped stethoscopes and cameras to let the nurse practitioner listen to the heart and lungs, and look at the ears, nose, mouth and throat. Following the visit, the nurse practitioner will talk to parents about the visit, determine if the child can remain in school, prescribe necessary medications, communicate with the child's primary care provider, and arrange for follow-up with either MY Health-e-Schools or the child's primary care provider.

MY Health-e-Schools telemedicine network does not replace the school nurse or the child's regular doctor. The service is available for children who require more medical care than the school nurse typically provides, and can be used for acute visits, annual physicals, and to follow-up on the effectiveness of a new medication. For a

student to be seen, parents must complete an enrollment packet that outlines the program and includes basic health information. No child will be seen without parental permission. Following each visit the nurse practitioner sends detailed information to the child's doctor. MY Health-e-Schools services are free for children with no insurance, and Medicaid or private insurance are accepted.

Healthy children perform better academically. Children who utilize school-based health care have been found to have better attendance, fewer barriers to learning, and higher overall grade point averages compared to students who do not use school-based health care. Using telemedicine to connect children with medical providers, thereby creating school-based health care in rural areas is a unique and innovative concept that is now available to our local children, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Steve North. This is a program that he began in Mitchell and Yancey counties, and it is attracting nationwide attention as a way to provide health care to children.

MY Health-e-Schools will be providing services at 10 schools in Yancey and Mitchell County for the 2012-2013 academic year. See our ad on this page for the complete list. MY Health-e-Schools will soon expand to all of the schools in Mitchell and Yancey Counties, with the exception of East Yancey and Cane River Middle schools, which already have excellent school-based health centers.

For additional informa-

tion, or to request an enrollment packet for your child, please contact Amanda Martin, Executive Director at info@crhi.org, or call us at (828) 467-8815.

Healthy children learn better

mitchell & yancey
health-e-schools



For the 2012-2013 school year, services will be available at:

Mitchell Schools

Bowman Middle
Greenlee Primary
Harris Middle
Mayland Early College
Mitchell High

Yancey Schools

Bee Log Elementary
Clearmont Elementary
Micaville Elementary
Mountain Heritage High
South Toe Elementary

Additional schools will be added soon!

Contact us at info@crhi.org, call us at (828) 467-8815,
or speak with your child's school nurse for more information.

www.myhealthschools.org