

June 10, 2016

Hello to All,

As many of you may know, my name is Ms. Morrissey and I am your new school nurse. I am writing to inform you about myself and some documentation changes that you might see occur throughout the year or meetings that I might want to attend with you.

Starting with myself, I am thirty-one years old and currently reside in Stamford, VT, with my ten-month old daughter. I enjoy hiking, kayaking, exercising, wakeboarding, turkey-hunting, archery, cross-country skiing, fishing, learning, teaching, spending time with my family and friends and taking care of people in need. Most people know me as a very happy, enjoyable person outside of work; however when I am at work, I take my career very seriously and I do it very thoroughly. Why did I want to become a nurse? I decided to become a nurse after my mom became ill with several various diseases that almost caused her life more than once when I was eighteen. And it was the best decision I ever made.

A brief educational rundown about me begins, when I received my BA in Environmental Science with a Chemistry Minor in May of 2006. I was on the student senate and also vice president of the science association. In 2008, I took a year of pre-nursing courses and knew right away that nursing was my calling. I achieved my Certificate of Practical Nursing at VTC in 2010, and I received my Associate of Science in Nursing, May 2013. I am currently enrolled to get my Masters for my Nurse Practitioner's license. I lived in Rutland for 12 years until March of 2014. I have five years floor experience as charge nurse involving Dementia, Short Term Rehab, and three years of floor experience in Med/Surg, Oncology with a speck of telemetry. Rotations in college included a psych ward at RRMC as well as OBGYN, and a school nursing term in Proctor VT. My passion had always been geriatrics and emergent care till I had a child of my own. I decided I wanted to help people by advocating and detecting health risks earlier in life to help reduce diseases that appear later in life.

I am not completely aware of what has happened in the past here at your school regarding asthma emergency care plans or epi-pen emergency care plan but those are documents that are mandated by the state which recommends that I sit (or call) with the parent/guardian regarding these care plans, review them with you and answer any questions you might have, in case an emergency does occur. When I am not in the school building, there will be a certified designee to give your child any medication accordingly. I am scheduled one day a week at each elementary school. My fall schedule may not be posted till mid August. I also have plans to teach handwashing and any other recommendations that I receive. Eye screening will begin by mid September and they will be done by using a Snellen (eye) chart in place of the vision machines. I ask that any new or old medications follow the school policy accordingly and the proper forms be filled out. All immunizations must be up to date and or exempt forms completed within one month of the date on your letter, so that your child will not be omitted from school. I will try to attend all 504 meetings on my scheduled days of work. If you are having a problem obtaining health insurance, please feel free to call or stop in and I will help you retrieve and or fill out that information. My goal as your new school nurse is to be there for the children and get to know and assess them individually. I want to gain their trust and fix their scraped knees or sit and just be there to let them talk with me.

My role as a school nurse is to communicate with not only the school staff members associated with a student, but also the community as a whole, which includes: other health team members,

teachers, secretaries, dentists, physicians, guidance counselors and special need teachers in order to help prevent, refer, educate, and inform any concerns we may see in a child or group of children within the confidentiality guidelines.

I look forward to meeting all of you. I will have my schedule post as soon as I am able. 😊