



# School Nurse Health Watch!



School

Date

Nurse

## National School Nurse Day

### What defines a school nurse?

National School Nurse Day is always recognized on the Wednesday within National Nurse Week in May (National Nurse Week is May 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>). This is a day to highlight the role of today's professional school nurse and to provide an opportunity to learn more about school health programs.



Along with state licensure from the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Nursing, school nurses must also have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, though, many also have a masters' degree and above. With backgrounds in both nursing *and* education, school nurses are uniquely prepared to address the health needs of students today.

The traditional school nurse's job description and skills have changed rapidly over the past few decades. The school nurse is ready to meet the demands of a divergent student population, an influx of students from different nations and cultures, provide safe care and management of children entering schools with increasingly complex medical needs, and social pressures that affect student's health and ability to learn.

School nurses are well educated, child-centered health specialists who, on any given day, may teach a health lesson, evaluate immunization data for state requirements, conduct screenings and make referrals, perform health counseling, review disaster preparedness plans, or teach a class in CPR.

School nurses routinely encounter a wide range of health issues that may impact student performance. They promote wellness and focus on prevention of health problems that may interfere with the learning process.

For more information on the school nurse role and how school nursing positively impacts your child's health, please visit or contact your school nurse at \_\_\_\_\_.

**“Children learn better when they are healthy!”**

This information was provided by the National Association of School Nurses

School Nurse Health Watch is provided by the Publicity Committee of the Ohio Association of School Nurses. It is not intended as a substitute for regular care. For health care and medical advice, see your physician or health care provider.