Health Career Photography



Anushri Mishra

Secondary Division

Chapter Number





Massachusetts HOSA

Nurse

Dietitian

Phlebotomist



Pamela Johnson, BSN, RN, NCSN measures the pulse of companion

BSN, RN. However, her job stretches far beyond the traditional roles one might imagine for a school nurse. Aside from simply checking pulses and handing out Band-Aids, school nurses are tasked with reviewing 504 and IEP assessments, creating accommodations for those chronically ill, and following state mandates for student screenings and surveys. Time management is certainly a challenge in this profession due to its intricacies in the school environment, many of

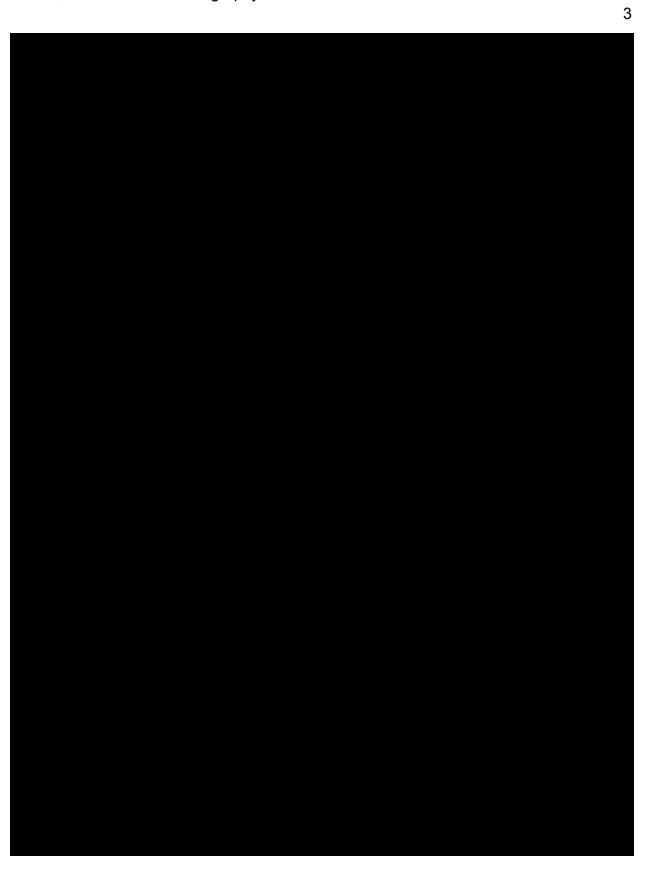
which would not be present in a medical clinic or hospital.

Mrs. Johnson attended UMass Dartmouth for her bachelor's in nursing (BSN), which took 4 years. She initially worked in neurology, transferred into adult intensive care where she worked for 4 years, then settled in New Hampshire after her marriage to work in neonatal intensive care. Sadly, she lost one of her children to a brain tumor and thus went out of work for a few years. The sudden tragedy left her in grief.

But this was not an end to her story. After befriending the school nurse at one of Shrewsbury's elementary schools, she was encouraged to become an occasional substitute. Soon, she found that her passion for nursing had been reignited through connecting with children and their needs. Upon hearing of a job opening at the high school, she applied immediately and successfully earned the position. This was the start of her 23-year reign; in fact, she is retiring this year after such a long career.

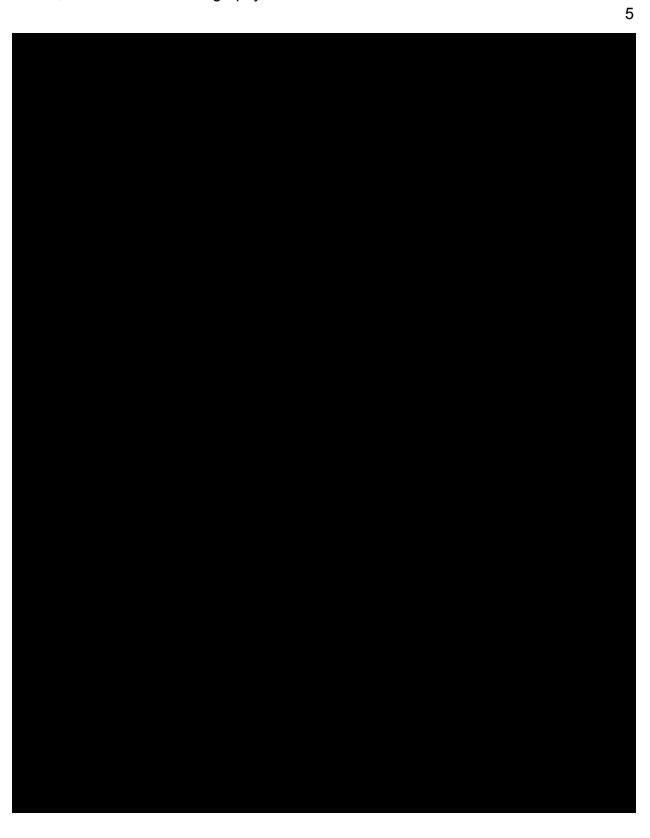
Despite the numerous responsibilities that entail from the profession, Mrs.

Johnson reminisces, "It is so fun to be a part of kids' lives and help to guide them... it is very fulfilling to see them immature as freshmen and watch them grow into mature seniors." Evidently, Mrs. Johnson believes her life has been served well.



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The expectation is that competitors read and are aware of all content within these guidelines and associated links. Successful deepetitors will all links for detailed information.





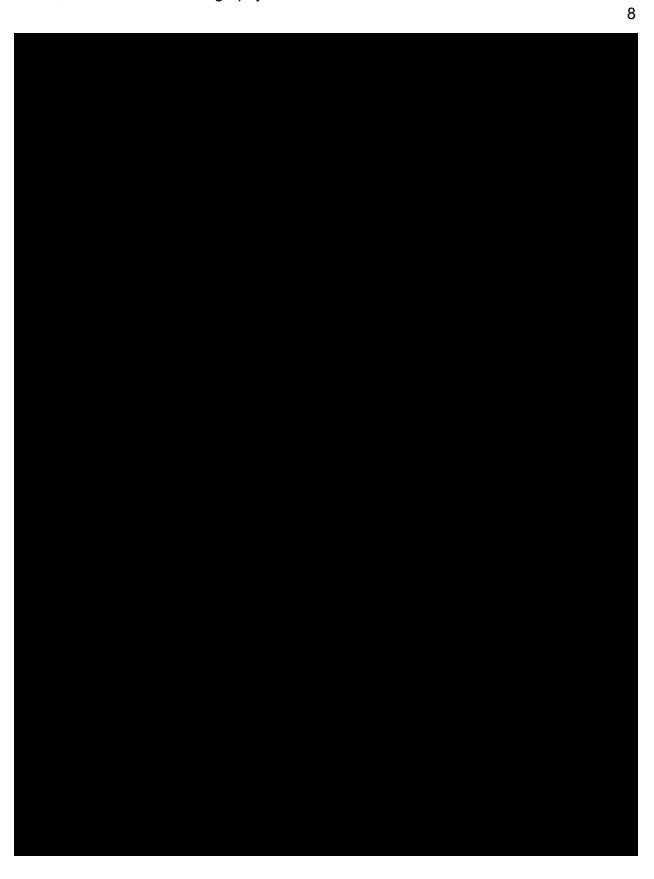
Erin Burtnyk explains her dietary chart to one of her colleagues. At first glance, Mrs. Burtnyk may seem like a health teacher that is simply passionate; she has a bright smile and a fiery voice that no student could ever fall asleep to. It is why she can never fail to do her job so well. That is, ONE of her jobs.

Unbeknownst to many, she has another title under her name: a registered dietitian! Erin Burtnyk, MS, RDN, LDN completed a 4+1 accelerated master's in nutrition program at UMass Amherst. Aspiring dietitians must complete a dietetic internship as their final step; everyone's experiences are different depending on where they apply, but they all have to take and pass the national Registered Dietitian exam upon completion.

Mrs. Burtnyk passed the exam on her first attempt in the summer of 2011. She was hired at Merrimack College in North Andover, where she worked as a nutrition counselor for the general Merrimack population of faculty and students. She also created and implemented nutrition programs, building the Didactic Program there.

The landscape of nutrition in society is constantly changing, proving to be both a benefit and a challenge. It requires awareness of current events and research in order to provide evidence-based nutrition advice. However, the huge amount of misinformation often perpetuated by individuals with little qualifications is a big hurdle.

Mrs. Burtnyk's practice has seamlessly integrated into her current role as a health educator. She has begun speaking at state and national conventions for health and physical educators about the importance of weight-and-food-neutral approaches to nutrition education. These experiences have shaped her views on the general well-being of people. The bridge between education and dietary awareness is one that becomes even more essential at a time of great misconception about diet culture.



HEALTH CAREER PHOTOGRAPHY - PERMISSION FORMS

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Close-up photos only (no full face)
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Signature:
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Signature: Date:
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Phlebotomist Heske draws the blood of her daughter Heske. Alongside blood work, Mrs. Heske must check blood draw orders, organize specimens accordingly, and keep families informed of the process at all times. As a medical research assistant on the side, she has the added responsibility of recruiting people for research studies and ensuring that proper protocols are followed.

Mrs. Heske originally worked in business, having obtained a bachelor of science in marketing. However, after being out of work for some time in order to care for her newborn, she decided to leave the field and enter phlebotomy. In order to earn her certificate, she enrolled in community college, where she took a semester-long program and passed the Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT) exam.

Her job has enabled her to learn much about the industry, blood banks and doctor's offices; having worked in a variety of these medical settings, it has certainly given her knowledge that she wouldn't have known otherwise. She also loves working with people and getting to know her patients; making conversation is a great distraction when doing blood work for someone, and being talkative is a good tool to have.

Of course, patient cooperation can be a challenge at times. As Mrs. Heske jokes, "Nobody wants their blood drawn." Sometimes, patients faint at the sight of blood—"This is due to the mechanism of the vasovagal syncope," she explains. Empathy is certainly key, especially if it is the patient's first time drawing blood. The goal is to make things quick and easy for both parties.





