

# Keilah Acevedo and April Pumphret Curley K-8 School

Interview by Brooke Childs, January 7, 2020

## 1. What organization do you work for, and what's your job?

*April:* We are school nurses at the Curley School.

## 2. What service do you provide for people in your community?

*Keilah:* We address any injuries, so if students fall or bump their heads or have an accident, we help them. Or if they are hungry or have a stomach ache, we address those things. Sometimes we have to help with other things outside of school to help students stay healthy.

Sometimes students don't have the things that they need like a place to live, glasses, clothing, or medicine. They need these things for their well-being, so we work with their families to help them get those things.

*April:* We also give out medication at school. Sometimes we take care of the staff as well. The community we serve includes staff, children, and families.

## 3. How did you get started in this work?

*April:* Originally I was an EMT. Then I went back to school while I was an EMT to become a nurse. I wanted to become a school nurse because the hours are much better for mothers to take care of their own kids.

*Keilah:* I started as a substitute nurse. Working as a school nurse is like working at a medical facility. You have to go to college or higher, and you have to take different tests.



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#### **4. What inspires you to do this work?**

*April:* It's busy! It almost kind of reminds me of the emergency room where you never know what could happen. The work could be something different every day. You never know.

*Keilah:* I enjoy helping people—it's very satisfying when you can actually help solve someone's problem. It's nice when people tell you that their life is better because you were part of it.

#### **5. What's your favorite part about the job?**

*April:* I like the kids of course, but also the staff—we have a great staff here. The school is so huge that we are always busy. It makes the day fly by! And I also really like that I have another nurse. Most schools don't have another nurse that they can talk to during the day and kind of bounce ideas off.

*Keilah:* It's unpredictable every day!

#### **6. What's the most challenging part of your job?**

*April:* Probably the same thing that I like—that it's so busy. You can sometimes feel like you just don't have enough hours in the day to get everything done.

*Keilah:* The challenging part is that you wish that you could do more outside of the school, but your resources are limited.

#### **7. What's your final message for first graders?**

*Keilah:* Whatever they want to do, they can do, as long as they put their mind to it!

*April:* First graders, wash your hands and remind your parents to send in your physical from the doctors when you go for your checkup. Finally, never be afraid to come to the nurse. We're always here to help you!