

INTRODUCING WEST HIGH'S NEW STUDENT HEALTH CLINIC!

Yes, a health clinic right here in our school building! The West High Health Clinic was the first in the state of Utah, and among the first in the nation. It provided the most access to physical and mental health care to our students than any other place in the state. It was met with an overwhelming reception upon its soft launch in late February, and fully launched in March. This innovative integration of health and school was not a small step towards the nurturing of future leaders, but a huge leap forward!



Dr. Dana Ostermiller sorts through student paperwork such as authorization forms.

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STUDENT HEALTH CLINIC



Student Government representative Grace Silge (12) welcomed families during the open house on Feb. 22.

FREE RESOURCES

Funding from the Utah State Legislature and the Salt Lake Education Foundation made all services at the health clinic completely free, even in most cases without health insurance. The clinic provided faster wait times; if a student needed an appointment with a psychiatrist, they would only have to wait one week instead of the typical 3-4 months. Additionally, because students could be seen at the clinic during school — taking up at most 45 minutes of class — it provided more accessibility for students who had busy lives outside of school, whether it be work, taking care of family, extracurriculars, etc.



Dr. Karla Feindt welcomes parents at the health clinic opening night.



"When I was in medical school, I realized that I really liked helping kids, I liked supporting them as they grow, and I really liked helping parents to be able to support their kids as they're growing too. And that's how I ended up in pediatrics."
-Dr. Christina Thuet

The West High Health Clinic was an official University of Utah primary care clinic, just like everywhere else in the valley — but it also went above and beyond in providing mental health services. It featured a team of fourteen trained, highly skilled medical professionals from the U of U. Pediatricians, psychologists, and psychiatrists came together to give West High students the help they needed, when they needed it.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Back: Dr. McGinnis, Dr. Weeks
Front: Ana, Veronica, Dr. Kimberly Hansen



Keila Torres Ayon (12) and Mackenzie Espinoza show some students around in an examination room. There are four such rooms in total, and each of them are identical, thus reducing stigma across different patients.



STUDENT SERVICES

The health clinic supported students through reducing injury and illness related absences, as they were able to be treated at the school itself. The health clinic was staffed with University of Utah medical doctors who offered expertise in many different services, including preventive care, immunizations, sports injuries, sick visits, chronic health conditions, and mental and behavioral health. They also provided things like universal screenings, group counseling, and individual counseling. This was revolutionary — usually, these departments are isolated and separate, but at the West High Clinic, all the doctors work in the same office! Dr. Christina Thuett, head doctor of the clinic, said, “We really have more here at the West High Clinic than we have at any other clinics in the valley.”



Keila Torres Ayon (12) and Mackenzie Espinoza (12) talked to fellow students Aadarsh Kuberan (11) and Lazlo Stetich (11) about the clinic.

