



## Doctors teach El Sol Elementary students in Kalamazoo about body, health at mini-medical school

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**KALAMAZOO, MI** -- Students at El Sol Elementary School in Kalamazoo received a house call Friday from resident doctors at the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine and medical students from Michigan State College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Osteopathic physicians representing the Michigan Osteopathic Association set up a mini-medical school to provide insight into what doctors do, educating children in kindergarten through fifth grade on the importance of preventive medicine and understanding what the human body needs to stay healthy and strong.

"It's kind of amazing that we can see our bones," Adan Ortiz, a fourth-grader at El Sol said after looking at X-rays.

"Maybe if someone broke their leg, they would need a X-ray because they might think it's just sprained instead of broken," 10-year-old Edwin Mejia said.

El Sol Elementary, part of **Kalamazoo Public Schools**, offers instruction in English and Spanish.

Dr. Jed Jensen, a resident at the **WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine** specializing in internal medicine and pediatrics, said that more and more, medicine is turning to community-based teaching to find ways to prevent injuries and to stay healthy.

"Looking at all the different health initiatives, we try to promote good health of these children," said Donna Carroll, director of Health Initiatives for Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo. "They are teaching very practical day-to-day things, not just about the parts of the body," Carroll said about the mini med-school event.

"We are really trying to bring in opportunities for children to see future career opportunities. They see what medical students do and this is tangible for them," Carroll said. "All of these children have 'The Promise' and anyone of them could go on to become a doctor or something within the medical profession."