

From: Douglas Braschler (dbraschi@hamiltonschools.us)  
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 8:18 AM  
To: Ad Staff; Terry Lechenet; Chad Walters; Paul Keene  
Subject: AED incident

Principals and Directors,

Please forward this to everyone in your building or department.

Dear Hamilton Community School Employee,

On April 22, 2009 during a freshman baseball game, a spectator suffered a cardiac arrest. It was between games of the double header when Larry Ratkowski collapsed. Joe Knapp, and off duty sheriff's deputy who was watching his son, and Liz Kreuze, our athletic trainer began CPR after a call to 911. The high school has an AED in the cafeteria and that was hurried to the scene as well. After several rounds of CPR and a shock from the AED, Larry was revived and taken to the hospital. He was there until this past Monday and now is recovering at home. His doctor made the statement that if it wasn't for the quick action taken, the outcome of this incident would have been much different. The CPR sustained him until the AED was able to 'restart' the heart.

This incident, plus the fact that the district only has one defibrillator, caused us to contact Aventric, Inc., the company who supplied us with the defibrillator 5 years ago. We actually received the AED as a gift from Bill Penning and a local cowboy group that had a fund raiser to cover the costs. We reviewed the district layout and talked about the community times at each location. It was decided that the next phase of coverage should include the purchase of 3 more AED's to be strategically placed within the district. The location of these defibrillators will be in the middle school west gym lobby, Hamilton Elementary/Heath Township fields, and with the athletic trainer's golf cart as it travels from field to field in the fall and spring. We have also purchased a training device that can be hooked up to any AED. Abby Ekkens, high school physical education teacher, is a certified trainer and will be able to help staffs understand how to use the device.

I would be happy to serve as a contact person for any group or organization who would like to have an AED on site for any Fun Night or other activity where large groups could be present. We will continue to look at our emergency plans for future needs along this line.

Sincerely,  
Doug Braschler, High School Principal