

AED Notification letter to parents and students

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Dickson Co Schools are pleased to inform you that we have joined a community effort to place Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in all our school buildings. This decision is the result of our wish to make our schools safe for our students, visitors and employees for past 5 years.

The latest national statistics indicate that more than 350,000 children and adults in the U.S. die from Sudden Cardiac Arrest every year, most of them outside of the hospital. Through our cooperative efforts with Project ADAM Tennessee at Monroe Carell Jr Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, AED donations from Horizon Tri-Star and Goodlark Foundation, we have joined hundreds of schools throughout the state of Tennessee and beyond in preparing our school for a life-threatening emergency. This program enables us to offer any person who may experience a Sudden Cardiac Arrest the best chance for survival.

We have placed AEDs in the following locations in all Dickson County Schools.

The AEDs are stored in wall cabinets. When the cabinet doors are opened, a loud alarm will sound. This alerts everyone that there is a potential emergency. Our school has a maintenance plan in place for the unit(s). The AEDs are designed to work effectively unless they are tampered with. Additionally, the AED will not shock a person unless it detects a shockable rhythm (ventricular fibrillation). As with any emergency device, please be reminded that tampering with such a unit may result in disciplinary action for the person involved.

Staff has been trained to assist with an emergency during regular school hours. After school hours, this is a Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program. If you suspect someone is experiencing a Sudden Cardiac Arrest, please feel free to use the equipment at our school. Good Samaritan laws protect the layperson in a life-saving attempt, although we recommend becoming trained in CPR/AED use as an investment in your health and the health of others. Our local EMS is aware of our policies and procedures for the program. We have medical oversight with physician's orders from **Dr. Kerry Ross at Dickson Medical Associates.**

To call 911 during school hours, just pick up phone and dial 911. To call 911 after school hours, **the same process should be followed.** If the AED is used, please contact **Nursing Coordinator at 615-446-7571,** so that we may follow-up and replace materials used in the resuscitation effort.

Many thanks for your participation in this important Heart Safe initiative in our school.

Karen Henson RN Clinical Nurse Coordinator

Dickson Co. Board of Education