

Dear Parents,

St. Sebastians School is pleased to inform you we have joined a community effort to place automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in our school building and church. This decision is the result of our wish to make our school and church safe for our students, visitors and employees.

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. We also are being made aware of the documented numbers of young athletes who suffer sudden cardiac arrest while participating in sports. Through our cooperative efforts with Project ADAM at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Masons, St. Sebastian Home & School, and numerous volunteers who participated in fundraising, we have joined hundreds of schools throughout the state of Wisconsin 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 2 AEDs in the following locations: In the lobby outside of the gym and in the gathering space in church. The AEDs are in alarmed 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 unit 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.

Numerous staff in the school and parish 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 been provided medical oversight by Dr. Terese Bauer.

If the AED is used please contact the parish or the school office so that we may follow-up and replace materials used in the resuscitation effort.

Sincerely,

Patty Walsh
School PAD coordinator