

# CV Schools first to implement CPR requirement

By Nicole Tuttle  
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Iroquois Middle School seventh grader Emily Courneya, age 12, demonstrates a hands-only CPR technique she learned in careers class. Chippewa Valley Schools has partnered with the American Heart Association to teach CPR in schools.



Iroquois Middle School seventh grader Jayden Conklin, age 12, demonstrates a hands-only CPR technique he learned in careers class. Chippewa Valley Schools has partnered with the American Heart Association to teach CPR in schools.

Reading, writing and saving lives are the new critical curriculum components of Chippewa Valley Schools seventh and ninth graders.

Chippewa Valley Schools has partnered with the American Heart Association (AHA) to become the first school district in Michigan to adopt the AHA standards for implementing CPR as a high school graduation requirement, according to Cindie DeWolf, community CPR manager for the AHA. According to information posted on Chippewa Valley Schools' Facebook page, the district is the first in Macomb County to offer a CPR in Schools program to train middle and high school students in CPR.

Chippewa Valley Director of School and Community Relations Diane Blain said that seventh graders will learn the skill during their career classes, and ninth graders during gym classes.

DeWolf said that the AHA contacted Chippewa Valley Schools about the CPR in Schools program as it is one of the largest districts in the state and a prior relationship has been established through a youth market director.

“One of the reasons we decided to get involved is we met with a representative from the American Heart Association and they explained their goal to us, to try to train more bystanders in hands on CPR. Their goal is to double the number trained in CPR to help increase the survival rate in the state of Michigan. What better way than to start preparing and training this next generation of Michiganders to help save lives?” Blain said.

A total of 12 Chippewa Valley Schools teachers were trained by the AHA on Sept. 16 according to American Heart Association Senior Community Health Director Stefanie Worth. DeWolf said that the training comprised one hour. Teachers also received the necessary materials to pass their knowledge on to students, including kits and mannequins, according to Blain.

“It’s a great skill for students to learn. What they teach in class is hands only CPR, 100 chest compressions per minute. That is just as effective as chest compression and mouth to mouth,” Blain said.

Students will be trained through just one day of class, according to Blain.

Worth said that hands only CPR is recommended for use by people who see someone collapse in a non-hospital setting, and consists of pushing hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of the song “Stayin’ Alive.”

Blain said that Algonquin Middle School students in Clinton Township have already received the training. Donna Hunter’s students at Iroquois Middle School in Macomb Township will receive the training the first week in November, and Michelle Marek’s students at the same school received training the last week in October.

Marek said that although the majority of the information was new to her students, a few had some training in child CPR through a babysitting course.

“The kids were very engaged. I think they thought it kind of cool that they were important enough, that they were now responsible enough, that they could do something like this. And I guess the point of the DVD too, was telling them that you just want to keep the blood flowing until a professional gets there and it is usually only a couple of minutes, but it could be the difference between saving a life or not,” Marek said.

Teachers John DiGiorgio and Steve Daniels received the CPR training and began teaching students at Chippewa Valley High School’s Ninth Grade Center in Clinton Township the last week in October.

“I learned hands only CPR. In the past I was taught CPR with giving breaths. The hands only CPR technique was new and innovative to me,” DiGiorgio said.

Dakota High School’s Ninth Grade Center students in Macomb Township will be trained in mid-November, according to Blain.