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Kansas Project ADAM awards Andover USD #385 schools Heart Safe designation

WICHITA, KANSAS – How can schools be prepared when someone on school property has a sudden cardiac arrest? They can attain a Kansas Project ADAM Heart Safe School designation. That is what the 10 schools in Andover USD #385 did.

Project ADAM (automated defibrillators in Adam’s memory) is a national, non-profit organization committed to saving lives through advocacy, education, preparedness and collaboration to prevent sudden cardiac death. It was created in 1999 by the parents of Adam Lemel, a 17-year-old high school student from Wisconsin who collapsed and died while playing basketball. His parents, Patty Lemel-Clanton and Joe Lemel, collaborated with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin’s Herma Heart Center.

Kansas Project ADAM is an affiliate healthcare site through KU School of Medicine-Wichita Department of Pediatrics. Program coordinator for Kansas Project ADAM, Aaron Ryan, is the executive director of KU Wichita Medical Practice Association. He reached out to Brett White, superintendent of Andover Public Schools, USD #385, about becoming the first Kansas schools to receive the designation.

“The staff and administration were very supportive of the program,” said Ryan. “It was great to work with such a supportive team our first time out.”
“Andover Public Schools is proud to partner with KU School of Medicine-Wichita and Project ADAM to achieve the Project ADAM Heart Safe School designation,” said White. “The safety and health of our students, staff, parents and patrons is a cornerstone for creating an effective learning environment in our schools. We appreciate the resources and training provided to our district to ensure that we are prepared for a cardiac emergency.”

Ryan helped the schools establish an emergency plan that includes a cardiac response team and proper training in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest on their school campuses.

According to the Project ADAM website, Project ADAM Heart Safe School designation is attained by schools upon successful implementation of a quality sudden cardiac arrest program of awareness, training and effective emergency response to promote a Heart Safe environment for students, visitors and staff as outlined within the Heart Safe School Checklist.

Schools have access to a manual, toolkit, templates and videos to equip the school and all who enter with information and training.

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**Media Notes**

- For additional information, please contact Aaron Ryan at 316-293-3478 or aryant3@kumc.edu.
- Aaron Ryan will present the banners at the July 8 Andover Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m. at 1432 N. Andover Rd.
- Kansas Project ADAM logo is attached.
The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita educates tomorrow's physicians and health care leaders through community partnership to improve the health of Kansans. We doctor Kansas.