

HEART STOPPED

A few years ago at my assigned high school, a student summoned me to a classroom; a classmate had slumped off her chair and was unconscious. She wasn't breathing and I couldn't detect a pulse. I had the principal, who had arrived on the scene, call 911 and I initiated CPR with the help of the custodian who had come by. The medics arrived and took over, then transported her to Harborview [Hospital]. We had no information about any cardiac problem. Several days later as she became more coherent, she told her brother that she had told him about having irregular heart rate. She had a pacemaker/defibrillator implanted in her chest. After a period of convalescence she returned to school, she needed constant reminders to keep her medical appointments, also I was the liaison person when the technician came periodically to test and recharge her defibrillator. This beautiful Vietnamese girl went on to graduate with her class.

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