



Quick Facts

Hero:

Tyler Rea

Grade:

7

Learned Skill:

Health Class

Saved:

One of his teachers

"I didn't quit," he said. "I did 20 pumps. Once she could breathe I went to the concession stand to get water."

– Tyler

EVERYDAY HERO STORIES:

Saved by a Student

Cindy Marhula will never forget that day in February when seventh-grade student Tyler Rea saved her by performing the Heimlich maneuver on her as she was choking.

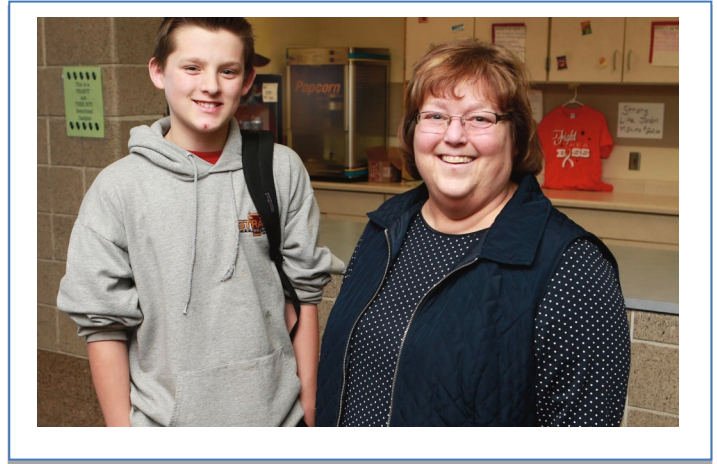
Marhula, a teacher at Tyler's school was watching a basketball game from the doorway of the gym and eating some popcorn, when she began to choke.

"I was eating the popcorn kernels and chewing on them, and with my last inhale the kernels totally blocked off my air," she said. "I couldn't breathe. It was scary."

Some students realized she was choking and called for help.

Tyler, was playing basketball, but heard their cries and stepped in to help. He had just learned the Heimlich Maneuver in his health class, so he knew just what to do.

Grand Forks Public Schools learn the Heimlich Maneuver in sixth grade and are retaught the technique again in seventh grade. The teachers are also trained, but in her 27 years, Marhula had never had to use her training. She got very emotional as she realized how her situation could have ended very differently had Tyler not persisted when the blockage didn't immediately clear. She is very grateful he was in that place at that time.



Tyler Rea and Cindy Marhula

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By Pamela Knudson

Mar 11, 2018