

# Students deal with medical conditions while at school

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Junior Tabby Malik had a less than pleasant day this month. It started with tunnel vision during his first period English class and quickly progressed to the last thing he remembered, which was his classmate Walter Bolle catching him as he fell when he got up to go to the nurse.

Malik has a seizure disorder, a condition that he has to keep constantly monitored, and he is not alone.

Senior Christy Sangpolsit was diagnosed with diabetes when she was 8 years old, and the disease has been “forcing [her] to grow up more and become more responsible” ever since.

Having type 2 diabetes hasn’t affected Sangpolsit’s grades much, but she feels that it has affected her social life because many friends don’t like to see the needles she uses five times a day to administer her medicine.

“Sometimes it is hard because most of my friends or

classmates cannot handle needles, so during class or during lunch, I have to find another time to administer medicine,” Sangpolsit said. Luckily, her closest friends have “learned to deal with it because it’s for [her] health and well being.”

DHS nurse Rhona Youtsey is concerned for the mental and emotional health of students with medical conditions because she sometimes sees them become self conscious because of their condition.

“My peers were all really worried, and they told me afterward that they were scared...I was scared too because it felt really weird,” Malik said.

There are 11 DHS students with known seizure disorders and eight with serious diabetes. According to Youtsey, these students have to keep special track of their health, medicine and how they’re feeling.

“Most diabetics we have have had it since elementary school, so they know what to do,” Youtsey said.

However, Youtsey still must teach secretaries along with supervisors how to administer glucagon shots if need be. She also makes medical plans with each student and all of his or her teachers to ensure safety at all times if a student’s blood sugar is dipping or an epileptic is feeling a seizure coming on.

These kinds of precautions have proven to be very important, especially in cases like Malik’s, when everyone in the classroom was afraid for him and didn’t know what to do.

“Even my teacher (Carrin-Pilon) seemed really scared for me,” Malik said.

Diabetics have to keep a steady track of their carbohydrates intake and must make sure to not skip meals and take medicine. It is often hard for diabetics to concentrate in class if their blood sugar is too low or high.

“[The hardest part] is remembering to administer medicine or pay attention to how I feel,” Sangpolsit said.



Before giving herself a shot of insulin, senior Christy Sangpolsit pricks her finger in the library to measure her blood sugar. Sangpolsit is used to a range of reactions when she does this, from people cringing the minute she pulls out the needle to even asking her to watch.