



In Memory of  
**Divontae L Swearegene**  
Class of 2012  
Birthdate - 23 May 2009

Claire police identify 15-year-old drowning victim

Memorial does not hold memorial ceremonies at the school, Principal Tim Leibham said. But the school will solicit donations for engraving Divontae L. Swearegene's name in the courtyard memorial garden that bears names of students who have died during their years at Memorial.

Swearegene, 15, died Saturday evening after falling into the Chippewa River. He was attempting to walk from an island to shore when he slipped on a rock near the Short Street and Clairemont Avenue bridges, according to the Eau Claire Police Department.

Five friends who were with Swearegene tried to help him, according to witnesses, but they were unable to keep him from going underwater.

Emergency personnel responded to the area of South Michigan Street and First Reserve at 7:01 p.m. Several police officers were at the scene within minutes of the dispatch, but there was no sign of Swearegene, said Sgt. Travis Quella of the Eau Claire Police Department. Officers went into the water and attempted to locate the youth before firefighters arrived.

A diver found Swearegene at 8:05 p.m. in about 20 feet of water about 60 feet downstream from where he went in, Quella said.

Paramedics tried to resuscitate Swearegene on the river shore, and he was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital where efforts to revive him continued. He was declared dead around 8:30 p.m.

The preliminary investigation by police indicates the incident was an accidental drowning.

A diver found the boy about an hour after authorities were contacted.

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