Green bandanas on backpacks across the Prairie High School campus. It’s a student-led effort to make Prairie High School a more conducive environment for talking openly about mental health. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for middle and high school-aged students in the United States. A start to reversing this trend is the Green Bandana Project, a nationwide suicide prevention and mental health awareness campaign.

Each student who has attended a Foundation 2 training and has parent permission will receive a green bandana to tie to their backpack. Students also carry resource cards with information about contacts for those who may be considering suicide. Green is a color associated with mental illness awareness and by tying a bandana to your backpack, students will know that you are a safe person to approach if they need someone to talk to. Also, the green bandana student groups works throughout the year to support student wellness. Students struggling with depression, anxiety or another mental health issues should consider reaching out to the counselors at Prairie High School for help.

Tier 1: Student Allies
Tier 2: Student Leadership Group
Tier 3: Teacher Allies
Tier 4: School Counselors
Tier 5: Foundation 2 & other mental health hotlines
Tier 6: 911, which will only be used for immediate emergencies

**STEP ONE: TIE BANDANA TO BACKPACK.**

**STEP TWO: SAVE LIVES.**
Prairie High School believes it is important to continue to take care of ourselves and others. The Green Bandana Project will do just that. The Green Bandana Project is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention initiative designed to show students that they are never alone. We want as many student allies as possible. Students who are interested in being PHS student allies within the Green Bandana Project will receive training on what to say when someone comes to them in a crisis, and who to go to for help. Each student trained will receive a Green Bandana to wear on their backpack and resource cards to handout. Does this sound like something you’d be interested in? Please complete the linked waiver and bring to a student-ally training. Training takes place in the high school presentation room on September 26th at 8:00am and September 27th during Hawk Time. Participants must attend one (but not both) training dates.
Think of the Green Bandana Project as a three tiered system. The student allies are the bottom tier, the teacher team is the middle tier, and Foundation 2 would be the top tier. This means that students are not being trained to become therapists, they simply are a caring person who has been instructed on how to speak with someone who is dealing with suicidal thoughts, and who to talk to when things get too serious for the student ally to handle. Student training takes place in the high school presentation room on September 26th at 8:00am and September 27th during Hawk Time. Participants must attend one (but not both) training dates. Teachers, if interested in becoming a TRAINED Green Bandana Teacher-Ally, attend one of the two dates to become trained as well.