



Greetings Grizzly Parents,

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. In recognition of Suicide Prevention Month, I am excited to share with you the exciting work Fresno Unified is doing to promote wellness and social emotional support for your student. On September 16, 2016 Assembly Bill 2246 was passed and requires school districts to adopt a policy on suicide prevention. As a part of this law Fresno Unified Mental Health Teams have provided education to staff specifically on how to support students who may be in need of social and emotional support as well as developed Mental Health Awareness modules to educate staff, students, and parents on strategies for overall wellness.

Kings Canyon Middle School will be implementing SOS Signs of Suicide Curriculum for all 8th graders that will teach your student action steps to take if they encounter a situation that requires help from an adult. Signs of Suicide presentations will take place in lieu of PE classes for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders beginning September 8 through September 11. If you would like to learn more about the curriculum, warning signs, and how to talk to your child about mental health visit [sossignsofsuicide.org/parent](http://sossignsofsuicide.org/parent).

After the presentation, your student will be given the opportunity to speak to a counselor based on the presentation. If they indicate that they would like to meet with a counselor, a support staff will contact your student within 24 hours over Teams, and call home if necessary.

If you would like further information on this topic, curriculum, or additional resources please contact the front office at (559) 253-6470 and ask for Telina Paz, Clinical School Social Worker or visit the Kings Canyon Middle School Facebook or Instagram for links to more information.