

Dating violence and bullying have a lot in common, as Stacey Tanner's ninth grade Personal and Family Development classes have discovered. Zi Bates, Community Educator from the Panhandle Crisis Center, has been leading discussions with the students based on videos and thought-provoking worksheets on various ideas about healthy relationships versus abusive relationships. The students have finished one project on dating relationships, using materials from [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org); they are working on another on bullying.

The Love Is Respect Project was adopted by Stacey Tanner's three classes, and they chose to distribute wallet cards which described warning signs of an abusive relationship to students throughout the high school. The students were also very enthusiastic about putting up posters which said, "Trust yourself; if things don't feel right call us or chat on line." They placed the posters in the halls and all restrooms of the high school. The third part of their project was to hang posters in various locations of the high school which ask, "Does something about your relationship scare you?" This continues with red flags to watch for in a relationship. Love Is Respect sent tee shirts to be awarded to students for participating in the project.

Mrs. Tanner's second hour students also felt that it was important to distribute the Love Is Respect wallet cards and posters to students in the Junior High. Mrs. Tanner's class worked in conjunction with Mrs. Garner's second period class to distribute the wallet cards and posters throughout the Junior High.

Bullying is a problem in our schools and this ninth grade class wanted to do something to help stop bullying. They made "Bully Boxes" that students could use to communicate concerns about a bullying problem. These boxes, along with many Stop Bullying posters the students created, will be placed at Wright Elementary school. The goal is to stop bullying early. The students also planned a skit and a puppet show to be performed for the first and third grade classes at the elementary school.

Many of the freshmen students in Mrs. Tanner's Personal and Family Development class are also FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) members. They will submit this project as a "Stop The Violence" project to their state and national office for recognition. The students have guided this project to reach close 1,500 students district wide.