

Student Assembly Parent Notification Letter

Editable school template | Replace all bracketed fields before sending

HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE

Copy this letter into your school's email or letter system. Replace every bracketed field, remove any optional item your school will not provide, and attach the Ryan's Story: Student Presentation Overview for Parents.

Subject: Important: Ryan's Story Student Assembly on Bullying, Cyberbullying, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Dear [School Name] Families,

At [School Name], we believe that addressing bullying and cyberbullying directly - while encouraging empathy, upstander behavior and help-seeking - is an important part of supporting student well-being. We have invited John Halligan, an internationally recognized speaker, author and advocate, to present Ryan's Story to our students on [Scheduled Date] at [Scheduled Time].

About Ryan's Story

In 2003, John Halligan lost his 13-year-old son, Ryan, to suicide. Ryan had experienced bullying by classmates since fifth grade, both in person and online. He also struggled with underlying mental health challenges and depression, which increased his vulnerability. After Ryan's death, John discovered online conversations that revealed how deeply his son had been suffering in silence.

John has since dedicated his life to sharing Ryan's story so students, educators and families can learn from the lessons his family learned in the hardest way possible. He has spoken at more than 2,500 schools and reached more than one million students across the United States and internationally. He has appeared on ABC's Primetime, PBS Frontline and The Oprah Winfrey Show. His advocacy contributed to the passage of Vermont's Bullying Prevention Law and Suicide Prevention Education Law.

What Students Will Experience

The presentation opens with a short video featuring home movies and photographs of Ryan, placing a real person and family at the center of the topic. Mr. Halligan then shares Ryan's story and the circumstances that contributed to his death. Students will learn about the devastating consequences bullying and cyberbullying can have, while hearing age-appropriate messages about empathy, forgiveness, upstander behavior, help-seeking, suicide prevention and the courage it takes to apologize.

For additional information, please visit www.RyanPatrickHalligan.org. The attached Ryan's Story: Student Presentation Overview for Parents explains the presentation's core messages and offers ways families can support students before and after the assembly.

Supporting Students

Because the presentation addresses sensitive and emotional topics, we want families to be informed in advance. [School Name] plans to support students in the following ways:

- School support services staff will be available during and after the assembly for students who would like additional support.
- [Optional - include only if your school will use it: Students may participate in a pre-assembly lesson to help prepare for the presentation.]
- [Optional - include only if your school will use it: Students may participate in a post-assembly lesson to reflect on the presentation and continue the conversation.]
- [Add any school-specific support, schedule or follow-up information here.]

Continuing the Conversation at Home

We strongly encourage you to ask your child about the presentation after they return home. An open, calm conversation about bullying, online behavior, mental health and asking a trusted adult for help can reinforce the presentation's most important messages. Please remind your child that seeking help for themselves or someone else is a sign of strength.

Questions or Concerns

If you have questions about the presentation, need additional information, or prefer that your child not attend, please contact [School Contact Name] at [Email Address] or [Phone Number] by [Response Deadline].

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[School/Organization Name]