

Subject: Ryan's Story Presentation for Students

Dear [School Name] Families,

[School Name] is committed to taking proactive steps to curb a problem that is found in schools everywhere: bullying and cyberbullying. In support of this, we have invited Mr. John Halligan, an international speaker and author, to conduct a presentation for our students. He will relay his own tragic experience as a parent whose 13-year-old son took his own life in 2003 after experiencing bullying from his peers since the 5th grade, both in school and online. Mr. Halligan further shares that Ryan wrestled with underlying mental health issues and depression, and these factors contributed to Ryan's vulnerability and ultimate suicide. His story is riveting and compelling and reminds students that there is a face, a person, and a heart on the other end of the screen.

His presentation on [Scheduled Date] will begin with a short video collection of home movie clips and still pictures of Ryan. Mr. Halligan will then tell the story of Ryan's life and the factors that led up to his son's suicide. The students will gain a perspective from inside the family of a child who is a victim of bullying and cyberbullying. In the wrap-up session, they will receive life-changing lessons about forgiveness, suicide prevention, the role of bystanders, and a challenge to apologize to someone. We encourage you to visit a website named for his son, www.RyansStory.org, for more information.

Because of the sensitive nature of this topic, we wanted to inform you about this presentation in advance. Students will engage in a pre-lesson before the presentation and will have a post-lesson after the presentation.

We encourage you to ask your child about the presentation and discuss it together. Our Support Services Staff will be available throughout the assembly and after for any students who need additional support.

Should you have further questions or if you would prefer that your child not attend this presentation, please email me at [email address] before [Date Here.]

Sincerely,