

PRESS RELEASE

Ryan's Story: A Father's Hard-Earned Lessons about Cyberbullying and Suicide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*[Date: Month Day, Year]***MEDIA CONTACT***[Contact Name]
[Phone] | [Email]*

[School/Organization Name] Hosts "Ryan's Story" Presentation for Parents and Community Members

*John Halligan shares Ryan's story to help parents and caregivers**strengthen communication, navigate online challenges, recognize concerns, and encourage
help-seeking*

[CITY, STATE] - [School/Organization Name] will host a special parent and caregiver presentation of Ryan's Story on [Day of Week], [Month Day, Year], at [Time] in [Venue Name]. John Halligan, father of Ryan Patrick Halligan, whom he lost to suicide at age 13 after bullying and cyberbullying, will share the lessons he learned to help families strengthen communication, recognize concerns, navigate online challenges, and seek support.

Now in his third decade of advocacy, Halligan has spoken at 2,500+ schools across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Colombia, reaching more than one million students. The evening is [free and open to parents, caregivers, educators, and community members / open to registered attendees].

Event Details

Event:	Ryan's Story - A Parent and Caregiver Presentation
Date:	[Day of Week, Month Day, Year]
Time:	[Start Time] – [End Time]
Location:	[Venue Name, Full Address]
Audience:	Parents, caregivers, educators, and community members
Admission:	[Free / Suggested donation / Ticket info]
RSVP:	[Link or contact info for registration]

About the Presentation

In October 2003, John Halligan lost his 13-year-old son, Ryan, to suicide after months of bullying at school and online. After Ryan's death, John discovered instant-message conversations that revealed the painful extent of what Ryan had experienced, including cruel rumors, repeated taunting, and an online betrayal by a classmate.

During this 60-minute presentation, Halligan shares Ryan's story, selected online conversations, and the lessons he learned as a parent. Topics include:

- How bullying and cyberbullying can affect young people and families
- Recognizing concerns related to depression, bullying, and suicidal ideation
- Practical ways to guide and monitor a child's online activity
- How to build open communication about difficult topics
- How bystanders can become upstanders and seek help from trusted adults

Quotes

"[Insert a current, approved quote from John Halligan about the presentation's purpose or a message to parents and caregivers.]"

- John Halligan, Founder of Ryan's Story

"[Insert an approved quote from the principal, superintendent, or event organizer explaining why the school invited John Halligan and why the presentation matters locally.]"

- [Name], [Title], [School/Organization]

Why This Matters

[Customize this section with current, locally sourced information. Suggested evergreen language:]

Bullying, cyberbullying, social media pressures, and youth mental health concerns continue to affect families and school communities. Parents and caregivers benefit from practical guidance that helps them strengthen communication, understand online experiences, recognize when a young person may need support, and connect with trusted adults and appropriate resources.

About John Halligan and Ryan's Story

John Halligan is a nationally recognized speaker and advocate addressing bullying, cyberbullying, mental health awareness, and suicide prevention. After losing his 13-year-old son, Ryan Patrick Halligan, to suicide in October 2003, John dedicated his work to sharing Ryan's story and helping families and school communities learn from his experience.

John delivered his first student presentation in Vermont in May 2005. Since then, he has spoken at 2,500+ schools throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Colombia, reaching more than one million students. His story has been featured on ABC's Primetime with Diane Sawyer, PBS Frontline, and The Oprah Winfrey Show, and he spoke at the United Nations Cyberhate Seminar in 2009.

John's advocacy led directly to the passage of Vermont's Bullying Prevention Policy Law (Act 117, signed May 2004) and Vermont's Suicide Prevention Education Law (Act 114, signed April 2006). In 2019, he published two books: *Ryan's Story: A Father's Hard-Earned Lessons about Cyberbullying and Suicide* for adults, and *Ryan's Story: Loved Beyond Belief* for middle and high school students.

For more information, visit

www.RyanPatrickHalligan.org

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(End of press release)

EDITOR'S NOTES (delete this section before distributing):

- Replace all [bracketed text] with your specific event information
- A high-resolution headshot of John Halligan is available upon request for media use
- Distribute to local newspapers, TV/radio stations, school newsletters, PTA/PTO networks, and community calendars
- Best timing: Send 2-3 weeks before the event, with a follow-up reminder 3-5 days prior
- John Halligan is available for pre-event media interviews—note this in your cover email
- For booking questions or press materials, contact: johnhalligan@ryansstory.org