
Student Video 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, entering a single viewing date or a date range and the time or class period, if applicable. Confirm the support arrangements and remove optional items your school will not provide. Attach the Student Presentation Overview for Parents if using the optional attachment note below.

Subject: Important: Ryan's Story Student Video 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. Our school has purchased the Ryan's Story Student Video, a recorded presentation by John Halligan, for students to watch at school. Viewing is scheduled for [Viewing Date or Date Range], during [Viewing Time or Class Period].

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

Students will watch the recorded Ryan's Story Student Video featuring John Halligan sharing his son's story and the circumstances that contributed to his death. The video addresses bullying and cyberbullying and encourages empathy, forgiveness, upstander behavior, help-seeking, suicide prevention and the courage it takes to apologize.

For additional information, please visit www.RyanPatrickHalligan.org. [Optional - include only if attaching: The attached Ryan's Story: Student Presentation Overview for Parents explains the core messages and offers ways families can support students before and after viewing.]

Supporting Students

Because the video 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 viewing for students who would like additional support.
- [Optional - include only if your school will use it: Students may participate in a lesson before viewing to help prepare for the video.]
- [Optional - include only if your school will use it: Students may participate in a follow-up lesson or discussion to reflect on the video 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 video after they have watched it at school. An open, calm conversation about bullying, online behavior, mental health and asking a trusted adult for help can reinforce the video'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 video, need additional information, or prefer that your child not participate in the viewing, please contact [School Contact Name] at [Email Address] or [Phone Number] by [Response Deadline].

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[School/Organization Name]