

Ryan's Story Presentation for Parents

Parent Presentation Overview Total Time Required: 60 Minutes
or 90 Minutes if you want to include 30 minutes of Q&A

(My virtual presentation option flows identical to the following description of my in-person version.)

An administrator or a PTA member will usually perform a brief introduction. I will provide a script. I will then welcome the parents and community members and thank them for taking the time in their busy lives to come and hear this presentation.

I explain right up front that this presentation is very different than what their child saw or will see. I describe the student presentation's general format and why I take a different approach with the parents in the evening.

The table of contents of my presentation is the following:

- Ryan's Story
- Lessons Learned
- What Is Bullying?
- What is Cyberbullying?
- Current Issues with Social Media
- Depression and Suicide
- Suggestions

I'm continually updating this presentation's contents, especially the social media concerns, because there are new ones almost every school year. Parents will get a clear message they need to step up regarding limiting access and monitoring use. I always stress to parents that there should be zero cyberbullying for pre-k right through 6th grade if parents are adhering to the COPPA (Children's Online Protection Act) law. It is the law that requires the statement in every Social Media App's term of use, "You Must Be 13 Years or Older to use this service."

I always stress there has to be a partnership with the school to address these issues. Had we been monitoring and limiting Ryan's access during the middle school years, we feel it would not have exacerbated his depression mental health issues. Unfortunately, he spent a lot of unhealthy time behind a closed bedroom door on his computer trying to deal with the bullying and getting inappropriate advice from peers.

The overall presentation will last about 60 minutes. I usually do not have a Q&A with the audience because I feel the presentation's content is informative enough, and parents are pressed for time. However, if you wish to include 30 minutes of Q&A, there will be no additional fee.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at johnhalligan@ryansstory.org.