

Parent Presentation Overview

Total Time Required: 90 Minutes. Usually scheduled 7-8:30PM

There will be a brief introduction of me usually performed by an administrator or a PTA member. 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 general format of the student presentation 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 the contents of this presentation, especially the social media concerns because there are new ones almost every school year. Parents will get a clear message they need to step it 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 doing their job and adhering to the COPPA (Children's Online Protection Act) law. It is the law that requires the statement in every Social Media App's terms 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 and parents should not just toss this one over the fence and expect the schools to do the parenting job for them. Had we been monitoring and limiting Ryan's access during the middle school years, we feel his depression and mental health issues would not have been exacerbated. 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 90 minutes. I do not have a Q&A with the audience because I feel the content of the presentation is informative enough. Instead, I tell the audience that I will stick around if they want to come up to me in with a question or feel a need to share something with me privately.

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