

Delaware Township School

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Dr. Richard Wiener
Superintendent

Kathleen Racile
Supervisor

Patricia Pillon
Supervisor

January 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, Delaware Township School has implemented a comprehensive bullying prevention program. We are committed to taking serious, proactive steps to curb a problem that is found in schools everywhere. Our efforts this year have focused on raising awareness about bullying and cyberbullying with students and parents.

We have recruited Mr. John Halligan to conduct an afternoon presentation on January 15, 2019 for our middle school students; he will also present to parents on that day from 7:00-8:30 pm. He will relay his own tragic experience as a Dad whose 13 year old son took his own life in 2003, after incessant bullying by 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 that these factors contributed to Ryan's vulnerability and ultimate suicide. His story is riveting and powerful, and reminds students that there is a face, a person, a heart, on the other end of the screen.

His presentation will begin with a short video collection of home movie clips and still pictures of Ryan. John will then begin to tell the story of Ryan and the factors that led up to his son's suicide. The students will gain a perspective from inside a family of a child who is a victim of bullying and cyberbullying. They will also gain awareness about the signs and risk of teenage suicide and how best to help a friend. As part of Mr. Halligan's presentation, students will have the chance to ask him questions. I encourage you to visit a website named for his son: www.RyansStory.org for more information.

Because of the sensitive nature of this topic, I wanted to inform you about it in advance and require your permission for your child(ren) to attend. Please fill out the bottom of this letter and return it prior to the assembly on January 15th.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Racile, School Administrator

Student Name(s) _____

_____ Yes, my child is permitted to attend the Ryan's Story assembly.

_____ No, I would prefer that my child NOT attend the assembly. He/She will spend the time supervised in a classroom.

Parent Signature _____