

## ***If We Only Knew, If He Only Told Us***

(excerpt from [www.ryanpatrickhalligan.com](http://www.ryanpatrickhalligan.com))

*“October 7, 2003 will always be the day that divides my life. Before that day my son Ryan was alive. A sweet, gentle and lanky thirteen year old fumbling his way through early adolescence and trying to establish his place in the often confusing and difficult social world of middle school. After that day my son would be gone forever, a death by suicide. Some would call it bullycide or even cyber bullycide. I just call it a huge hole in my heart that will never heal.” - John Halligan*

Dear Parent or Guardian,

On April 9, 2015 TRMS will welcome John Halligan to speak at our school about a very serious topic – bullying. Mr. Halligan and his family experienced the ultimate loss when their son, Ryan, took his own life as a result of taunts and teasing that he experienced at school and online. In an effort to prevent this from happening to other families, Mr. Halligan has spoken to thousands of students and has been featured on ABC’s Primetime with Diane Sawyer, CBS’s Early Morning Show and most recently he was a guest on Oprah. Ryan Halligan’s story is riveting and powerful, and reminds students that there is a face, a person, a heart, on the other end of the computer screen.

The presentation will begin with a short video collection of home movie clips and still pictures of Ryan. Mr. Halligan 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 cyber bullying. 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. We encourage you to visit a website named for his son: [www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org](http://www.ryanpatrickhalligan.org) for more information.

**Due to the sensitive nature of this topic, we wanted to inform you about this presentation in advance. We encourage you to ask your child about the presentation and discuss it together. If for any reason, you would prefer that your child not attend this presentation, please let Kelley Binette, Student Assistance Counselor, know by Wednesday, April 8th so alternative arrangements can be made for the time of the presentation. Mrs. Binette can be contacted at [Kelley.Binette@timberlane.net](mailto:Kelley.Binette@timberlane.net) or 382-7131 x 4926 with any questions.**

Sincerely,

Kelley Binette, MSW, MLADC  
Student Assistance Program