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ELKHART MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
Elkhart Community Schools
2608 California Road, Elkhart, IN 46514-1222
(574) 262-5600 / 5625 fax
www.elkhart.k12.in.us

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you know, Elkhart Memorial High 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 cyber bullying with students and parents.

We have recruited Mr. John Halligan to conduct a presentation on Wednesday, March 24th for our sophomore and junior students during Success Period. 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. His 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.

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 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 for more information.

Because of the sensitive nature of the topic, we wanted to inform you about it 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 send a written note to Mrs. Jacquie Rost, Director of Student Activities prior to March 24th presentation.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us at 574-262-5617 and/or jrost@elkhart.k12.in.us

Sincerely,

Mr. Cary Anderson,
Assistant Principal
Elkhart Memorial High School