

April 2025 Houghton Elementary

Houghton-Portage Township Public Schools



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M-Step Testing



The month of April is the time of year when we administer the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) to all students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. This is our school's summative assessments designed to measure student growth.

English Language Arts and Mathematics are assessed in grades 3–5, Science and Social Studies in grade 5. This test will be taken online, utilizing our Chromebooks and computer lab.

Students will not be testing everyday, and tests in each area will take between one and two hours.

Please make sure your child attends regularly throughout the month of April

to ensure an opportunity to take this assessment.

Beyond just academics, ensuring your child gets proper rest is key to their success during this testing period. Adequate sleep not only enhances cognitive function but also boosts memory retention and problem-solving abilities, all crucial elements for excelling on the M-STEP.

We are excited to show the great progress we have made in the past year.

Please encourage your child to give their best effort!



Upcoming Events

- **April 7th–** M-STEP Testing Begins
- **April 18th–** 21st— Easter Break—No School
- **April 23 & 24—** Kindergarten Screening
- **May 7—**Class Pictures in AM

GROWTH MINDSET-

What should we be teaching students to say?

Instead of...	Try thinking...
I'm not good at this.	What am I missing?
I'm awesome at this.	I'm on the right track because I've worked hard and practiced.
I give up.	I'll use some of the strategies we've learned.
This is too hard.	This may take some time and effort.
I made a mistake.	Mistakes help me learn better.



March TEAM Students

Each month we recognize a student in each class that exemplifies our schools TEAM goals:

Take Responsibility

Earn Respect

Act Positively

Make it Safe

Our March honorees are:

Young 5's: Caspian Gruver

K: Wren Gray, Anabel Baker, Isla Kopke, Valla Tomlinson

1st : William Manser, Emma Collins,

1st: Emmie Helminen, Asher Bradfish, Eliza Anderson

2nd: Alexandra Piazza, Edie Olson, Jolie Erickson, Everett Geshel, Daniel Oyeniran

3rd: Ariana Asbury, Elias Noll, Suvi Mack, Eliza Manser, Wesley Kalcich

4th: Nina Bard, Kinoka Minakata, Jaxon Monticello, Joshua Sundstrom, Sybil Semmler Smith

5th: Maci Locatelli, Julia Dias Freitas, Hayden Korby, Jayna Park, Addy Dennis,

Congratulations TEAM Students!



Counselor's Corner

Micah
Stipech

Please help us help kids by leaving toys and trinkets at home.

The school day is full of distractions for children. Classrooms are busy. Everyday there is so much to accomplish. Children move from one task to another, from one subject to the next, to recess, to lunch and specials classes.

As spring days get warmer it can be even more difficult for kids to stay on task. One thing we can control is not allowing our children to bring things to school that will be a distraction to themselves and others. Often students come in with action figures, toys, trinkets, money and all sorts of things that create a big distraction for students. When students are unable to put these things away it often results in struggles and meltdowns. Please help us help kids by leaving it at home.

We would like to thank our PTO, staff, and all of the HES families for their support of Reading Month.

Our students read well over 370,000 minutes during the month of March!

Keep Reading On!

Kindergarten Registration 2025-2026

Houghton Portage Township Schools has begun registering Kindergarten-aged children for the 2025-2026 school year.

Children who will be five years of age by December 1st, 2025, are eligible to enter Kindergarten or Young 5's.

Please call Houghton Elementary School at 482-0456 ext. 3040 to register!

Children currently attending Young 5's are automatically registered for kindergarten.



95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR
ATTENDANCE
FIGURES
ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS

stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS

earn their degrees



WORKERS

succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

www.attendanceworks.org

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Lost and Found

HELP FIND HOMES TO LOST ITEMS!

Our lost and found is overflowing with winter gear; hats, gloves/mittens, snowpants, jackets, and even boots!

Please take inventory of your child's gear and if they are missing items, come visit our lost and found.

We try to keep the Lost and Found neat and organized to help find items, but as children search for items throughout the day, it becomes quite messy.

Spring Weather and Playground

SNOW, RAIN, or SUNSHINE...READY FOR IT ALL!

Please watch the weather and help to have your child prepared for outdoor recess on our playground. Our playground gets very muddy with rain. Boots are a great idea with wet weather!

Send an extra pair of pants and socks with your child in case they get wet or muddy.

Also, please continue to send warm coats, hats and gloves. Remember to check for wet gear after school and dry them at night!

April weather is very unpredictable and we hope to keep students warm and comfortable on the playground.

