

# HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY



## January Newsletter



### Houghton Elementary School

Houghton-Portage Township Schools



Houghton Elementary School is a proud 2023 National Blue Ribbon School and a MTSS Silver Recognition school for behavior and reading supports. We provide a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where all students can thrive. Our dedicated staff fosters strong relationships and delivers a rich, well-rounded education that prepares students for success.

### Upcoming Events

#### Half Days of School

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Students dismissed at 12:20pm both days

#### Start of Second Semester

Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Vanentine's Celebration

Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

#### No School

Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Teacher In-Service Day

#### No School

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

Mid-Winter Break



### 2026-27 Kindergarten Registration

We're excited to welcome our next group of Gremlins! Kindergarten registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin in March. Children who turn five on or before September 1, 2026 are eligible to join our Kindergarten or Young 5's programs.

If your child will turn five between September 2 and December 1, 2026, you may apply for an early-entry waiver so they can begin school this fall. We're happy to help answer any questions—just give us a call at 482-0456 ext. 3000.

And a quick reminder: children currently enrolled in Young 5's will be automatically registered for Kindergarten. We look forward to welcoming all of our new students!

**Please help pass on this information to any parents you know with Kindergarten age children. Thank you!**

### Inclement Weather Policy

#### School Closings:

If school must be closed, announcements will be shared by 7:00 a.m. through the Parent Listserv, district website, text message alerts, TV6, and local radio stations.

#### Late Starts:

If conditions allow for school to begin later than usual, a late start will be announced as early as possible. On late-start days, buses will run two hours later than their normal schedule.

#### Early Dismissals:

If worsening weather requires an early dismissal, the district will notify the families as soon as the decision is made. Your child will be sent to your pre-determined location on their early-dismissal plan.

**We ask parents to review their family's early-dismissal plan with their child and to inform the office promptly if plans change.**

**Thank you for helping us keep all students safe during winter weather.**

# A Positive Climate and Culture

**“Every Student. Every Day. Whatever it takes.” - Jimmy Casas**

At Houghton Elementary, “Every student. Every day.” is more than a motto — it guides everything we do. Through Capturing Kids’ Hearts, The Positivity Project, and our T.E.A.M. behavior system, we build strong relationships and a safe, supportive environment where every student feels valued and ready to succeed.

## The Positive Project

As we kick off the New Year, our school will focus on four key character strengths through The Positivity Project: **Optimism, Prudence, Perseverance, and Social Intelligence**. These strengths help students develop healthy habits, build strong relationships, and learn strategies for navigating everyday challenges.

**Optimism** encourages students to look for the good, even when situations are difficult. They’ll learn how a hopeful mindset can boost confidence and motivation.

**Prudence** helps students make thoughtful decisions. Classroom activities will highlight the importance of thinking ahead and choosing actions that align with personal goals and school expectations.

**Perseverance** reminds students that success often comes from staying committed and putting in steady effort. They’ll practice pushing through challenges and celebrating progress, big or small.

**Social Intelligence** supports students in understanding their own emotions and recognizing how others feel. This strength strengthens friendships, empathy, and positive communication.

We’re excited to see how students use these strengths throughout January as they continue growing into kind, capable learners.

## December T.E.A.M. Students

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

**Take Responsibility**  
**Earn Respect**  
**Act Positively**  
**Make it Safe**

### CONGRATULATIONS TEAM STUDENTS!!!!

**Kindergarten/Y5's:** Westley Miller, Hieu Nguyen, Colt Mattson, Amelia Robinette, Marissa Shirey, Beau Greenley

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Raya Hanke, Ruby Nave, Isla Kopke, Julianna Gagnon

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Kai Goodman, Eevie Campain, Carson Tormala, Leo Meyer, Adahlia Ovist

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Riley Apps, Everett Geshel, Micah Ervin, Penny Rustman, Charlotte Lantz

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Jude Armbruster, Cienne Bailey, Edy Lieburn, Aili Galerneau, Jamie Dennis

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Ryder Flachs, Titi Fernandez Monzon, Nola Lizzadro-McPherson, Sawyer Geshel, Henry Sjoholm -Sweitz

