

HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY



March 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

March Reading Month

Friday, February 27th

Kick-off Assembly

Tuesday, March 17th

Family Reading Night - 6:00 - 7:30pm

Teacher In-Service

Friday, March 6th

No School for Students

Spring Break

Monday, March 23rd through

Friday, March 27th

No School

Easter Break

Friday, April 3rd

No School

Teacher In-Service

Monday, April 6th

No School for Students

Star Lab at HES

Early April- Dates TBD

Class Pictures

Wednesday, May 13th

Reading is a Game Changer

March Reading Month is Here!

Get ready to level up! This month, our school is transforming into a giant interactive board game for our Reading Month theme: Reading is a Game Changer.

Outside the library, students see our massive game board where every class has its own game piece. Our students are challenged with navigating through three epic zones—Information Island, Mystery Marsh, and Fairytale Forest—to reach the finish line by the end of the month. Students can help their class move forward in the game by completing their Reading Bingo cards at home, participating in the dress-up days, and by following specific TEAM Expectations as a class that we will be watching for!

Every class that successfully navigates the entire board by Friday, March 20, will earn a Read-In and Board Game Celebration Day! Students will get to spend the day cozying up with great books and enjoying classic tabletop games with their peers.

We can't wait to see our students' competitive spirits ignite their love for reading. Let the games begin!

M-STEP Assessments

As we move into spring time, we are preparing for the annual Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP).

Once the assessments begin in April, you can help your child feel confident and ready to do their best by:

1. **Rest Up:** Ensure your child gets a full night's sleep before testing days.
2. **Healthy Start:** A nutritious breakfast provides the "brain fuel" needed for focus.
3. **Positive Vibes:** Remind your child that this is just a chance to show what they know—no need for "test stress"!
4. **Attendance Matters:** Please try to avoid scheduling doctor appointments or early pick-ups during your child's scheduled testing sessions.

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

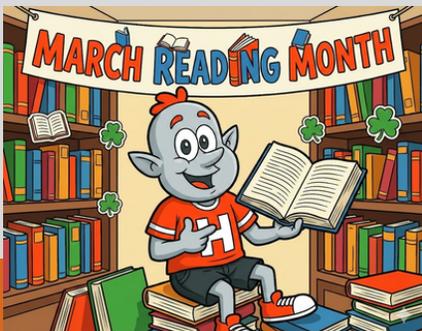
Happy March Reading Month! Alongside our reading celebrations, our Positivity Project (P2) focus this month centers on three key character strengths:

- **Love of Learning:** Having a passion for discovery and the curiosity to explore how the world works.
- **Perspective:** The ability to see the "big picture" and understand that others may view situations differently than we do.
- **Identifying & Appreciating the Good in Others:** Training our brains to actively look for—and call out—the positive traits and actions of our peers.

Bring P2 Home! Try asking your child these questions this month:

- "What is something new you learned today that excited you?"
- "When reading your book today, how do you think the main character felt?"
- "What is one good thing you noticed a classmate do today?"

Thank you for helping our Houghton Gremlins grow!



February T.E.A.M. 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

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM STUDENTS!!!!

Kindergarten/Y5's: Sarah Kreipke, Beau Jackson, Hazel LaBonte, Niisa Ongie, Reagan Perrault, Dawson Carne

1st Grade: Geneva Melin, Lucia Munoz Tefft, Tyrel Isaacson, Meadow Lurn

2nd Grade: Emersyn Rilei, Lyra Robins-Zuraw, Alina Laho, Myla Wright, Aaron Young

3rd Grade: Ramona Keleher, Emelia Wisniewski, Zachary Shirey, Thomas Gleason, Maggie McCarty

4th Grade: Isaiah Green, Ava Jacques, Jakaya Markham, Tommy Brueggeman, Jack Bliss DeLine

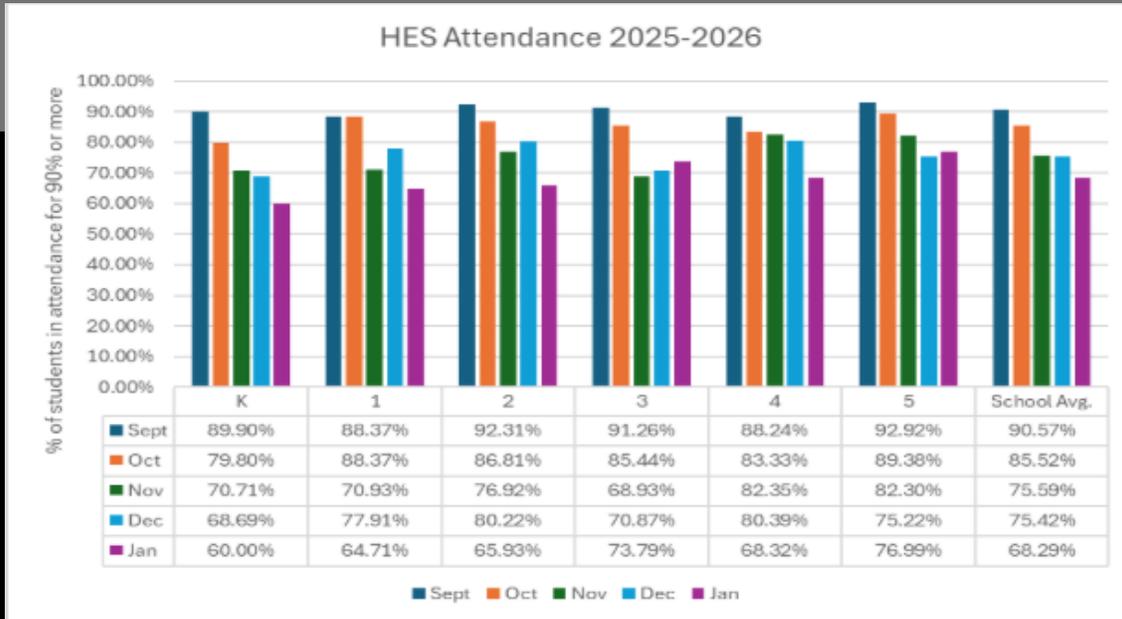
5th Grade: Susanna Narwold, Danny Schuett, Sam Campain, Lola Bustos, Emmalyn Sutinen

HOUGHTON
Gremlins

Student Attendance Matters

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

Percentage of Students Present 90% or More During 1st Semester



Building a strong foundation in elementary school is about more than just hitting academic milestones—it is about consistency. Every day a student is in class, they are participating in collaborative learning and social-emotional development that simply cannot be replicated through make-up worksheets or at-home reading. Frequent absences, even in the early grades, can lead to significant gaps in fundamental skills like phonics and basic number sense, which are the building blocks for all future subjects. By prioritizing regular attendance, you are helping your child develop a reliable routine and the "showing up" mindset that leads to long-term success both in the classroom and beyond.

Here Today, Ready for 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.

Houghton Elementary

Kindergarten Pre-Registration

Houghton-Portage Township School District is now Pre-Registering Kindergarten-aged children for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year!

How To Pre-Register

- Complete the form that is linked in the message below!
- Or go to www.hpts.us and click the Registration link on the main page.
- Call 906-482-0456 ext. 3040 with any questions or for help!

Who Can Register?

- Children who will be five (5) years of age by September 1st, 2026
- Children who will be five (5) years of age by December 1st with a waiver signed by a parent.



**Houghton
Elementary
School**

Houghton-Portage Township Schools



Why Choose the Gremlins?

A Premier School District in Michigan

HOUGHTON PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKINGS

Houghton Elementary School

#86 out of 2601 elementary schools in Michigan - Top 3%

Houghton Middle School

#38 out of 1979 middle schools in Michigan - Top 2%

Houghton High School

#45 out of 1136 high schools in Michigan - Top 4%



Congratulations

HPTS MiMTSS Recognition

MTSS Implementation and Impact



Your district has earned an MTSS Implementation and Impact award at the **Gold level**.

In addition, the following schools in your district have earned an MTSS Implementation and Impact award:

Houghton Central High School - Behavior Gold
Houghton Elementary School - Tier 1 Behavior: Silver, Tier 2 Behavior: Silver, Tier 1 Reading: Silver
Houghton Middle School - Behavior Gold, Tier 1 Reading: Bronze



MTSS Data Utilization



Your district has earned the MTSS Data Utilization award for collecting and using the **District Capacity Assessment** during 2024-2025.

In addition, the following schools in your district have earned the MTSS Data Utilization award for collecting and using MTSS fidelity data:

Houghton Central High School: Behavior
Houghton Elementary School: Reading & Behavior
Houghton Middle School: Reading & Behavior

2025

A Nationally Recognized Elementary School

World-Class Education, Right Here at Home



We are thrilled to share that Houghton Elementary continues to earn top honors. Alongside being named a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School, we have received an overall "A" grade from Niche.com and are ranked as the #1 Elementary School in Houghton County.

These awards—combined with our recognition by U.S. News & World Report—reflect the "Gremlin Pride" we see every day. From our top-tier teachers to our supportive families, our educational community makes our school a leader in Michigan education!

Top 25 School Districts in Michigan



A District of Distinction:

Excellence from Start to Finish - Houghton Portage Township Schools is proud to be a top-ranked district in Michigan, offering a world-class education at every grade level. We are rated an "A" District by Niche.com and ranked in the Top 5% of School Districts in the State (#25 out of 500+).