

Every Student, Every Day



HOUGHTON-PORTAGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Houghton Elementary School November 2024

Cole Klein, Principal
Patrick Aldrich, Assistant Principal

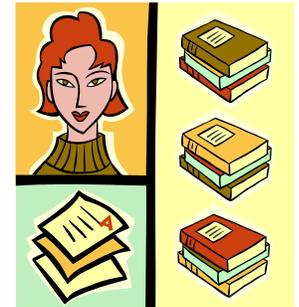
Parent-Teacher Conferences

Houghton Elementary School will hold our Parent-Teacher Conferences for all our students on Thursday, November 7th and on Friday, November 8th. Please make every effort to attend this conference. If you do not have an appointment, please contact your child's teacher to schedule.

Parent involvement is a key to your child's education. If for some reason you must re-schedule this meeting, please contact your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible. Scheduling can be very difficult.

If you would like to meet with any of our essentials teachers, their schedule and location is as follows: Mr. Lawson will be here in the gym, Mrs. Hronkin will be in the art room, Mrs. Mechlin will be in the library, Ms. Rutz will be in the computer room and Mrs. Fontaine and Mrs. Arundell will have a sign up sheet if parents would like to talk to them.

We look forward to seeing you!



Coats, Hats and Mittens

Please make sure that your child is dressed for the weather each day. Children who are appropriately dressed in warm coats, hats, and mittens have a much better time at recess. We will also send students inside from recess to get coats on.

If there is snow on the ground, please send children to school with boots and snow pants.

Labeling your child's clothing with their first and last name will help us return lost items to students. This will help keep our Lost and

Found to a manageable level as well.

Please let the school know if your child has a need for winter clothes and we will do our best to help.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- *November 1—First Marking Period Ended*
- *November 4 –8– Scholastic Book Fair*
- *November 7— Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm, Parent Teacher Conf. 1- 3 pm & 5—7 pm*
- *November 8—Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm, Parent Teacher Conf. 1-3 pm*
- *November 27—No School– Professional Development*
- *November 28 & 29— Thanksgiving Break*

OCTOBER TEAM STUDENTS

Every month we are recognizing a student in each class that exemplifies our schools TEAM goals:

Take Responsibility

Earn Respect

Act Positively

Make it Safe

These students will enjoy a snack with the principal and receive a certificate.

Our October honorees are:

Young 5's: Hank Schmidt

K: Jaxon Malone, Noah MacDonald, Wyatt Jansen, Khloe Parsons

1st : Lexi Bustos, Adahlia Ovist, Atticus Klein, Adelyn Robinette, Esme Jaehnig

2nd: Amy Harsh, Weston Baker, Penny Rustman, Henry Harris, Oscar Werner

3rd: Vanja Helminen, Ava Jacques, Jase Williams, Easton Anderson, Auggie Meckler

4th: Ellie Pihlaja, Griffin Cutsy, Ansel Lautala, Henry Sjoholm Sweitz, Alida Luskin

5th: Anja Chopp, Rachel Dowden, Avery Pietila, Tessa Ryyanen, Danae Juntunen

Congratulations!!!

TEAM Students



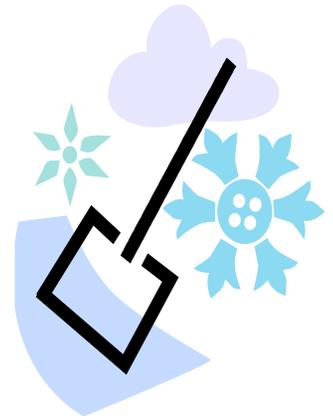
Preparing for Winter Weather— Cancellations and Delays

When inclement weather causes the closing of school, the following procedures will be followed:

School Closing: Announcements will be made via text message, the Parent list serv, the school website, the television station (Channel 6) and local radio stations by 7:00 a.m. that school will not be in session.

Late Starts: When weather conditions warrant, the start of school may be delayed. Such an announcement will be made as soon as possible. Buses will run two hours late.

Early Dismissal: Our office will be notified of early dismissals due to bad weather as early as possible. Dismissal time from classes and bus schedules to transport children will be determined by the Superintendent. Parents, please review your plan with your student and please contact the office ASAP if your initial plans have changed.



Illness Protocol

As we head into flu season, let's work together to keep our school community healthy! Please keep your child home if they experience:

- **Fever** of 100°F or higher (must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning)
- **Vomiting or diarrhea** within the last 24 hours
- **Severe sore throat, cough, or difficulty breathing**
- **Eye irritation** with redness, discharge, or pain
- **Rash** that is undiagnosed or spreading

Encouraging good rest and recovery helps prevent the spread of illness and allows your child to return to school healthy and ready to learn. Thank you for your support!



Building Healthy Communities

Reducing Health Disparities in Elementary Schools

Dear Families:

Great news! This year, our school district was selected to participate in the Building Healthy Communities program, an initiative that is helping us make our school a healthier place! Creating a healthy school for our students is important because we know that healthy students are better learners.

Children who attend schools that implement the Building Healthy Communities program demonstrate significant:



Reductions in childhood obesity



Improved academic achievement



Increased physical activity



Healthier Eating



Improvements in school health environments

The Building Healthy Communities program utilizes eight components that teach our community about wellness and integrates physical activity and healthy eating opportunities throughout the school day. Our school will receive lots of great resources to support the effort - including playground equipment and a PE cart, nutrition education materials, and training for our staff.

There are some simple things that you can do to support this initiative:

- Ask about what they're **learning**, and how they're using the **new equipment** during PE and recess!
- Look for **healthy tips** and resources that we'll periodically send home - these help to reinforce what the children are learning at school. You'll also find **Healthy@Home** resources on bhcwsu.org.
- Encourage **healthy choices at home** too! We'll give you easy suggestions for this throughout the year, but start with trying a new veggie or going for a walk after dinner.



We look forward to a year focused on healthier and happier students!

Building Healthy Communities is made possible by a partnership between Wayne State University, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, and Michigan Fitness Foundation.

CONNECTING FAMILIES WITH BHC RESOURCES: HEALTHY@HOME

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



SCAN ME

BHC aims to help families learn together and foster healthy choices at home that help reinforce healthy habits in your student's health and wellness journey.

Many resources can be found on the **Healthy@Home** page of our website that can be used at home to reinforce the health education students are receiving at school.

<https://bhcwsu.org/home/healthy-at-home/>

Social Media Platforms to Follow:

You can find us on:

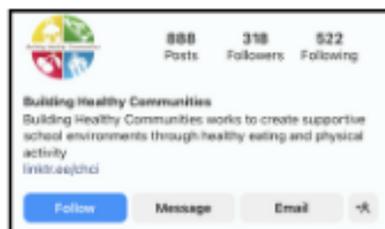
- **Instagram** @building.healthy.communities



- **Facebook Pages** @Building Healthy Communities1



Look for our logo in the profile picture!



We provide healthy tips, recipes, and promote other great resources to help live happy and healthy lives.

[BHC INSTAGRAM](#)

[BHCWSU.ORG](#)

[BHC FACEBOOK](#)



Improving Attendance Matters Because It Reflects:

Exposure to language: Starting in Pre-K, attendance equals exposure to language-rich environments especially for low-income children.

Time on Task in Class: Students only benefit from classroom instruction if they are in class.

On Track for Success: Chronic absence is a proven early warning sign that a student is behind in reading by 3rd grade, failing courses middle and high school, and likely to drop-out.

College Readiness: Attendance patterns predicts college enrollment and persistence.

Engagement : Attendance reflects engagement in learning.

Effective Practice: Schools, communities and families can improve attendance when they work together.

(For research, see: <http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/>)

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The '24-'25 HES yearbook is available to pre-order. Yearbooks are full color and spiral-bound. They include individual student photos and fun snapshots from the school year. Pre-ordering guarantees your student will receive a yearbook when they arrive in late May.

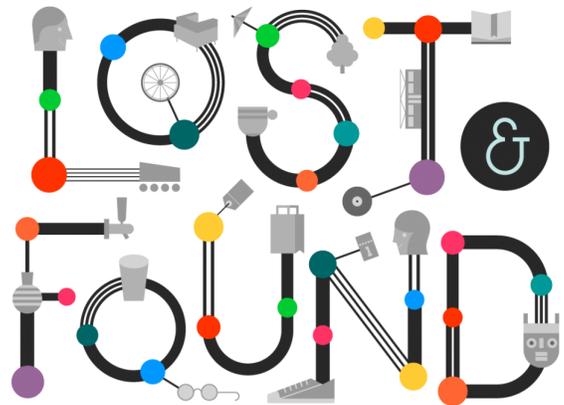
Order forms are due on Friday, November 8th.

Please return the box below along with a payment of \$17 per yearbook.

Questions? Email Ms. Rutz
(sarutz@hpts.us)

Lost & Found

Parents, please check our lost and found when attending PT conferences. We are overflowing with sweatshirts, jackets and hats. We are planning on donating the clothes left at Holiday break to a charitable organization.



Counselor's Corner

Micah Stipech

One definition of character is *the intentions and actions that benefit both the individual and others*.

There are many character strengths and virtues that cultures around the world unanimously agree upon. The Character Strength of Gratitude is one of them. When you feel gratitude, you feel a sense of abundance. When you express gratitude—especially when it's heartfelt—you strengthen your relationships with others. Grateful people are happier and more fulfilled. And gratitude leads you to be nicer to other people: more cooperative, patient, and trusting. How can I help cultivate the character strength of gratitude in children?

Model it. Talk about the good things that happen to you: *"I love this gorgeous spring day!"* Reframe difficulties by highlighting positive aspects: *"Work has been stressful lately, but I'm grateful that my boss trusts me with important responsibilities."*

Another way is to use what Character Lab calls "Three Good Things."

How do I do it?

In this daily reflection, you list three things that went well for you, and why they went well. Dinner or bedtime is a great chance to do this!

How does it work?

This brief exercise helps you reflect on the many things that happen every day. Over time, you begin to look for things in your day to add to your list!

Inspired by: Seligman, M. E. P., Steen, T. A., Park, N., & Peterson, C. (2005). Positive psychology progress: Empirical validation of interventions. *American Psychologist*, 60(5), 410-421.