

HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY

February 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

Wing Ding Dress-up

Thursday, February 5th
Hat and Jersey Day

Friday, February 6th

Orange and Black - Gremlin Spirit Days

Wing Ding Assembly

Friday, February 6th

Vanentine's Celebration

Thursday, February 12th

No School

Friday, February 13th
Teacher In-Service Day

No School

Monday, February 16th
Mid-Winter Break

March Reading Month

Friday, February 27th
Kick-off Assembly

Tuesday, March 18th

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

Star Lab at HES

Early March - Dates TBD

March Reading Month at HES

March is almost here, and so is our school-wide celebration: March is Reading Month! Throughout March, we'll be promoting the joy of reading at school and at home. When families join in by reading together, students are more likely to value reading as well. More details will be sent home soon.

Reading is a foundational skill for all learning, and we work hard to ensure every child becomes a strong, confident reader. From kindergarten on, we closely monitor each student's reading progress. If a child experiences difficulties, we create a reading improvement plan tailored to their needs.

These plans may include:

- Extra small-group instruction
- Regular progress monitoring
- A read-at-home plan

All support takes place during the school day and will not replace regular reading instruction.

We look forward to a fun and engaging month of reading!

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!

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

In February, Houghton Elementary will focus on four Positivity Project character strengths: Forgiveness, Love, Cheering Others’ Success (OPM), and Humility.

- **Forgiveness:** Learning to let go of mistakes and move forward in a positive way.
- **Love:** Showing care, kindness, and appreciation for others through everyday actions.
- **Cheering Others’ Success (OPM):** Celebrating classmates’ achievements and building a supportive school community.
- **Humility:** Recognizing strengths without bragging, being open to learning, and showing gratitude.

Classrooms will explore these strengths through conversations, activities, and stories. We look forward to a month of positive growth for all our students!



December 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: Remi Isaacson, Ellie Laho, Malcolm Theisen, Lillian Artrip, Linnea Melin, Arlo Wunrow-Brushafer

1st Grade: Cameron Lawton, Oliver Monticello, Jack Bradley, Marlin Duncan

2nd Grade: Lexi Bustos, Finlee Kilpela, Autumn Baker, Leo Luoma, William Manser

3rd Grade: Brooks Fletcher, Eveliina Markham, Alexandria Dougherty, Natalie Harry, Iris O’Connell

4th Grade: Vance Viola, Easton Anderson, Elias Noll, Sierra Kryzanek, Richard Shafer

5th Grade: Brooke Tormala, Corben Jukuri, Harper LaBonte, Aurora Woodcock-Cadreau, Aria Harman



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+).