



HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY

October 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

Dates TBD - October

Fire Prevention Month

Grade level Presentations given by the Houghton Fire Dept.

Friday, October 10th
In-Service Day

No School for Students!

Friday, October 31st
Halloween

Afternoon Costume Parade and Parties!

Thursday, November 6th

Parent Teacher Conferences

1:00pm - 3:00pm and 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Friday, November 7th

Parent Teacher Conferences

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Every Day Counts!

At Houghton Elementary, we believe that **every student, every day** truly matters. Regular school attendance plays a key role in academic success, positive relationships, and long-term habits that support lifelong learning.

Here's how families can help:

- **Establish consistent routines for bedtime and morning.**
- **Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.**
- **Avoid extended vacations during the school year.**

Even missing just a few days each month can add up and impact a student's progress. Let's work together to make attendance a priority and ensure all our Gremlins thrive!

Halloween Celebrations

Mark your calendar for Friday, Oct. 31, for our annual Halloween celebration. Our Costume Parade will begin at 1:45pm. Parents are asked to view the parade outside the building on our playground. Students will walk down the blacktop path starting at the upper Kindergarten/1st grade doors and ending at the 5th grade doors down by the basketball hoops.

We plan to stream the parade on Facebook Live for parents and families.

Please do not send any toy weapons (plastic guns, swords or knives) as part of costumes. Also, please do not send students in masks that are difficult to see out of. If it is raining we will move the parade indoors and stream it on Facebook Live for parents/family to view.



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

At Houghton Elementary, we continue to build a strong, positive school culture through The *Positivity Project* —a character education program that helps students develop meaningful relationships and a strong sense of self.

In October, our school-wide focus will be on several key character traits including the **"Other People Matter" (OPM)** mindset, including:

- **OPM** - Being present and giving others my attention – Students are learning how to listen actively, show care, and be fully engaged in their interactions with peers and adults.
- **Integrity** – We’re highlighting the importance of doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.
- **Creativity** – Students will explore ways to think outside the box, express their ideas, and solve problems with imagination and originality.
- **OPM** - Knowing my words and actions affect others – This powerful concept helps students reflect on how their behavior influences those around them—at school, at home, and in the community.

We encourage you to talk with your child about these topics at home and share how they see these traits in action in their daily lives. Together, we can help all our Gremlins grow into kind, confident, and compassionate individuals!

September 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: Astrid Kurtti, Penny Curtis, Delaney Deyaert, Hendrick O’Connell, Hank Schmidt, Adalee Meverden

1st Grade: Aliina Helminen, Jonah Cowling, Jensen Juntunen, Jason Zhou

2nd Grade: Lucca Olson, Blake Aho, Abby Vertin, Kennedy Peterson, Aurora Curtis

3rd Grade: Oscar Werner, Bennett Woodford, Xavier Behnke, Dahlia Theisen, Henry Harris,

4th Grade: Conor Lurn, Vera Ison, Josie Kilpela, Jenni Michaelson, James Middlebrook

5th Grade: Tyler Pietila, Scarlett Bier, Ivy Juntunen, Ansel Lautala, Claire Bittner



Other Important Information!

MSTEP Scores and HES Yearbook Information



M-STEP Scores

We are very proud of our students performance on last Spring's state tests. Our scores are a reflection of outstanding students and great teachers. We will use this data to help guide curriculum adjustments. Scores represent percent of students proficient or advanced. We added a comparison to State averages and the average score for local schools in the areas in the Copper Country ISD. The data represents the percentage of students who were "advanced" or "proficient" on the M-STEP assessments.

Grade/Subject	HES 2025		State 2025	CCISD 2025
3 rd grade Math	67.3%		42.7%	59.4%
3 rd grade ELA	55.3%		38.9%	51.9%
4 th grade Math	65.8%		39.4%	43.4%
4 th grade ELA	62.3%		42.4%	44.3%
5 th grade Math	57.9%		32.9%	43.5%
5 th grade ELA	63.6%		44.4%	49.4%

HES 2025-26 Yearbook Information

Order forms for the 2025-2025 Houghton Elementary School Yearbook will be sent home in mid-October.



This year's yearbook is in color, spiral bound and includes individual student photographs, group photos of school organizations, and fun candid snapshots.

Yearbooks are \$17.00 and will be distributed in late May. Order forms with payment are due on Friday, November 7th. A limited quantity of extra yearbooks will be available when orders arrive in May.