



HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY



May 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

HES Fine Arts Night

Thursday, May 7th
5:30 - 7:30pm

Class Pictures

Wednesday, May 13th

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th
No School for Students

Field Day

Tuesday, June 2nd
Back up days are June 1st or June 3rd

Half Days

Thursday, June 4th
Friday, June 5th
No lunch served on Friday

Last Day of School

Friday, June 5th
5th Grade Banner Ceremony @ 8:30am

Gremlins Making the Most of Summer!

Summer is a vital time for students to recharge, spend time with family, and simply enjoy being kids. It is also a wonderful three-month window to help your child excel and prepare for the upcoming school year. Here are a few practical ways to support your child's education this summer:

- **Read Daily:** Whether you are reading to them or reading with them, make literacy a daily habit. Our local library is a fantastic resource for story times and summer reading programs.
- **Flashcard Fun:** Young learners thrive on repetition. Spend ten minutes a day on letter and number recognition or sight words. These are perfect for daily practice or passing the time on road trips!
- **Connect to the Future:** Talk to your child about different careers. When students see how their schoolwork connects to real-world opportunities, they become more motivated and excited to learn.
- **Hands-on Math:** Make math a part of your daily routine. Have your child count money at the store, count their toys, or even keep track of their steps around the block.
- **Keep it Joyful:** Above all, make learning fun! Exploring the world together is the best way to keep a child's natural curiosity alive.

We wish all of our Houghton families a safe, happy, and educational summer!

TEACH APPRECIATION WEEK - May 4 - 8th !

This week, we honor the incredible educators at Houghton Elementary School. Our teachers go above and beyond every single day, and Mr. Klein and the entire administration are deeply grateful to work with such a talented, dedicated staff.

Please take a moment this week to say thank you to the teachers who do so much for our students and our school!



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 Positivity Project

This month, Houghton Elementary is focusing on four key areas of the Positivity Project to wrap up the school year:

- **Enthusiasm:** Approaching every task with energy and a positive spirit.
- **Leadership:** Setting a good example and encouraging others to reach their goals.
- **Spiral Review:** Reflecting on all the character strengths we’ve practiced this year.
- **Outro Week (Other People Mindset):** Remembering that our relationships and how we treat others are what matter most.

By focusing on these traits, our students are learning to lead with heart and finish the year with great energy!

To help keep the conversation going at the dinner table or on the car ride home, here are a few talking points centered on our May Positivity Project goals:

- "What is one thing you’re doing this week that you can tackle with 'level 10' energy?"
- "How did you help someone else succeed today?"
- "What was the best part of someone else’s day today?"



March 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: Niisa Ongie, Jackson Vertin, Lana Pihlaja, Rudy Apriesnig, Evelyn Schwass, Sienna Saint-Onge

1st Grade: Lauren Hastings, Meadow Rutherford, Lora Pan, Gwen Jones

2nd Grade: Lauren Cowling, Isha Mandal, Katarina Miller, Hobbes Meckler, Eliza Anderson

3rd Grade: Charlotte Schwass, Pearl Kilpela, J.J. Davidson, Evan Burke, Jasper Morse

4th Grade: Eli Howell, Adalyn Pearce, Teddy Bosio, Lev Juntunen, Jamie Dennis

5th Grade: Clara Blake, Nina Bard, Adeline Fiala, Ellie Pihlaja, Evelyn Wisniewski,

HOUGHTON
Gremlins

Updates and Reminders

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

Get Ready for Field Day 2026!

We are excited to announce that Field Day 2026 will take place on June 2nd! This is a favorite Houghton tradition where the entire school spends the day outdoors enjoying team challenges and friendly class competitions. Parents are more than welcome to come cheer on our students and watch the events throughout the day.

To ensure everyone has the best experience possible, please keep an eye on the forecast. We recommend dressing your child in layers so they stay comfortable while outside. Don't forget comfortable shoes and a water bottle! Monday, June 1st, and Wednesday June 3rd will be our alternate days if the forecast predicts rain.



Snow, Rain, or Sunshine... Gizmo is Ready for it All!

May weather in Houghton is famously unpredictable! To keep our students warm, dry, and comfortable during outdoor recess, please help your child prepare for whatever the day may bring.

Recess Reminders:

- **Dress for the Mud:** Our playground gets very messy this time of year. Boots are highly recommended for wet and muddy days!
- **Pack a Backup:** Please send an extra pair of pants and socks in your child's backpack just in case they get a little too close to a puddle.
- **Be Prepared for Rain:** While we won't be outside for recess with moderate to heavy rain, we will be outside if the rain is light. Please check the weather and have your child bring a coat on rainy days.
- **The Over-Night Dry:** Remember to check for wet gear after school so it can dry out completely before the next morning.

Our goal is to ensure every student can enjoy their time outside without being too cold or wet. Thank you for your help in keeping our Gremlins cozy!

Missing Gear? Check the Lost & Found!

With the unpredictable April weather, many students are shedding layers at recess and forgetting them on the playground. Our Lost & Found is currently overflowing with coats, hats, gloves, and even the occasional lone boot!

How You Can Help:

- **Label Everything:** Please write your child's name on the inside tags of their gear. This helps Gizmo and the staff return items directly to their owners.
- **Take a Quick Look:** Next time you are at the school, please stop by the Lost & Found to see if any of your family's belongings have found a temporary home there.
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Don't let your favorites get away—check for your missing gear today!

ATTENDANCE GOAL

**Every Gremlin Counts -
Every Student, Every Day**

Miss 5% (9 days)
or less of the school year.

An illustration of the Gizmo character, a grey gremlin wearing a red shirt with a white 'H' and a red tie. He is pointing towards the text.

©Attendance Works

Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow!

A large yellow pencil with a pink eraser and a sharp lead tip, positioned horizontally below the text.

Houghton Elementary

Kindergarten Registration

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

How To Pre-Register

- Go to www.hpts.us and click the Kindergarten 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%

HOUGHTON



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+).