



HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2019

Houghton-Portage Township Schools

Volume 7, Issue 5

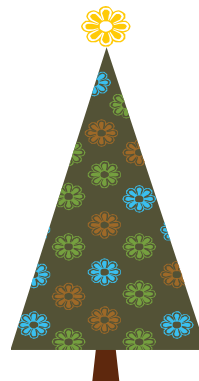
Mrs. Doreen Kramer— Superintendent
Mr. Anders Hill— Principal

Houghton Elementary Winter Concert

Houghton Elementary School's Holiday concert will be on Thursday, December 12th. To accommodate all of our families and friends, we will hold this program at two different times again this year. We will have a 9:30 am and a 1:30 pm show in the elementary school gym.

We ask that families with students who have last names A—L attend the 9:30 am show and last names M—Z attend the 1:30 pm show. We understand you may need to shift to accommodate schedules, but ask if you can, please follow these guidelines.

We also ask that you carpool with family or friends as we accommodate the large amount of traffic.



Upcoming Events

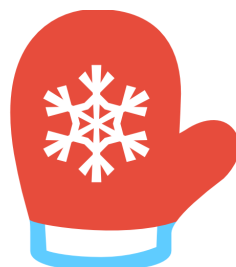
- December 12th— Houghton Elementary Winter Concert Last Names (A- L) 9:30 am, (M-Z) 1:30 pm
- December 19th— Breakfast with Santa
- December 20th— Last Day for Students
- January 6th— Classes Resume
- January 10th— PTO Track Night
- January 23rd & 24th— Students Dismissed at 12:20 Both Days

Winter Weather & Inside Recess

Winter is here! This is a good time to remind your child to come to school dressed appropriately for cold weather. Winter coats, snow pants, hats, boots and mittens should be the daily attire for all school children. Recess is great fun for those who are dressed warmly! Please make sure your child comes to school with all the

essential outerwear to enjoy the fun of winter.

We will have inside recess on days that the temperature or wind chill fall below 0 degrees.



Please check our "Lost and Found" located outside the cafeteria before Holiday Break. Anything left will be donated to local charities.



Please slow down in the parking lot when dropping off or picking up students.



Streaming our Holiday Concert

For parents and grandparents who are unable to make it to the Holiday Concert to watch, we will be streaming the concert on YouTube during the 9:30 am performance on Thursday, December 12th. We will send out a link via the Parent List-Serv a few days before the concert that you can share with family.



Breakfast with Santa

On Thursday, December 19th from 7:30–8:15 am, students can have breakfast with Santa in the elementary cafeteria.



November TEAM Students of the Month

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 November honorees are:

Young 5's: Tyler Pietila

K: Kooper Johnson, Jayna Park, Violet Kilpela, Hazel Schwandt & Bentley Gunnari

1st : Toki Aschauer, Megan Little, Maryam Shittu & Valen Juntunen

2nd: Ryder Erva, Micah Isaacson, Isabella Edwards, Tyler Rule & Vance Joyal

3rd: Shanayelee Mendez, Henry Imbrunnone, Cole Ceane, Mason Soli & Mia Ma

4th: Natalie Somero, Aspen Lappander, Seth Valentine & Zachary Pax

5th: Jared Freeman, Asher Hoover, Brady Rubin, Julian Owusu-Ansah & Zoe Pino

TEAM Students
Con-

Counselor's Corner

Micah Stipech

Hope is as vital as oxygen for your brain. Neuroscientists are investigating the **science of hope**. It turns out that a feeling of hopefulness changes your brain. Your brain pumps chemicals when experiencing the sensation of hope. These chemicals can block pain and accelerate healing. Hope, which involves belief and expectation, cause the brain to release neurochemicals called endorphins and enkephalins which actually mimic the effects of morphine. The result is that the brain can overcome hurdles and move to a place of recovery. In scientific terms, hope and recovery are not causally connected, but they are correlated.

What is one simple thing parents can do to foster hope in children? Tell and read stories that instill a feeling of hope. Peo-

ple have done this forever. The tougher the circumstances, the more humans have told stories of hope and resilience. Stories are the #1 brain state changer on the planet! Stories do far more than entertain.

Neuroscientists believe that our brains are wired for stories. Stories captivate the brain. They release emotions that are inextricably tied to those of the story's characters. Brain scientists call this "narrative transport".] Story telling has become a casualty of our busy, hectic pace of life. Tell stories about our lives, lives of others and make believe stories. Parents, leaders, teachers....everyone needs to lay off the text messages and tell more stories!



Attendance Matters!

Please check out the bulletin board in the main office. We will be tracking grade levels attendance rates with percent of students who were chronically absent or tardy in the month. This is usually 3 absences or tardies in the month. We want to encourage all families to have students in school on time. We know this will make a big difference!



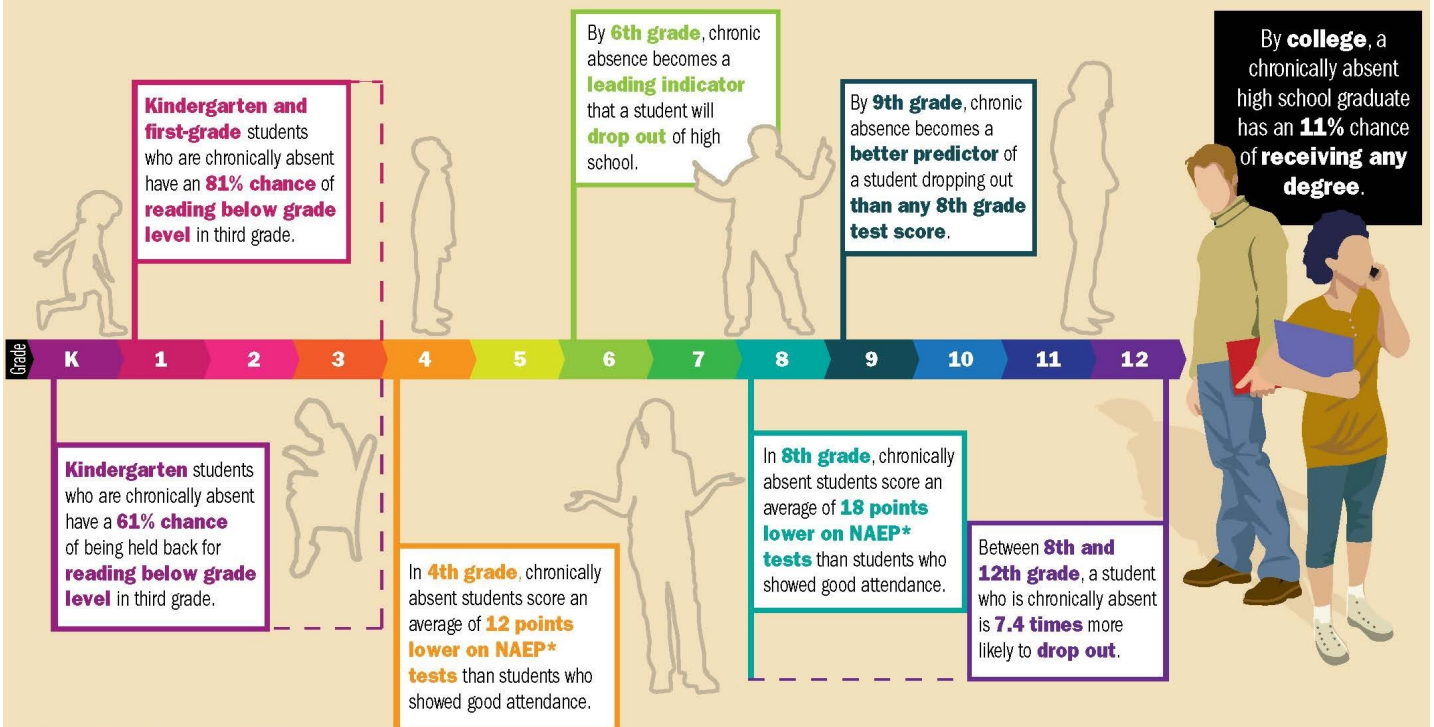
Did You Know?
 A student is chronically absent if he or she misses as few as **two days** of school a month.
2 DAYS PER MONTH x 9 MONTHS = CHRONIC ABSENCE

STUDENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

There are an estimated 5–7.5 million students in the United States who are chronically absent from school.

Chronic absenteeism hurts students in a variety of ways as they progress through their school career, starting with kindergarten.

DEFINITIONS:
Chronic Absence – Missing 2 days each month, totaling 18 days, equals 10% of the school year
Good Attendance – Missing 9 days or less in a school year (5%)



Breakfast Information

Houghton Portage Township Schools offers a breakfast in the Cafeteria at both the Elementary and the Middle and High School.

The times are listed below:

Houghton Elementary Breakfast Hours: 7:40 – 8:15

Houghton Middle / High School Breakfast Hours: 7:30 – 8:05

Also for your convenience, we have implemented a Breakfast in the Classroom option at the Elementary school. Your child does not have to eat breakfast every day with this option. The student signs up for breakfast the day before if they want breakfast the following day in the classroom. If your child is ill or absent on the day they had ordered breakfast they will not be charged. If you receive free or reduced lunches, you automatically receive free or reduced breakfast. The cost for Breakfast in the Classroom is the same as the cost for the breakfast in the cafeteria.

Cost of Breakfast:

Full Price: \$1.75

Reduced Price with qualifying application: \$0.30

Free with qualifying application

If you are not sure if you qualify for free or reduced meals, please fill out an application online at www.lunchapp.com or pick up a paper application from any school office.



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Thank you to all parents, grandparents and community members that have donated Econo Foods receipts. The funds received help us provide field trips and extra materials in classrooms.

econofoods®

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Fax: 906-487-5941
Principal—Anders Hill
ahill@hpts.us

www.hpts.us

Thank you to all the families that donated food to “Can the principal.”



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*Have a happy, safe, and joyful holidays
from all the staff at
Houghton Elementary
School!*



PTO Corner



You Support PTO. PTO Supports Our School.

Shop & Support PTO: Please choose **Houghton Elementary School PTO** as your designated charity when you shop smile.amazon.com.

PTO Thanks: PTO donated almost \$1,000 in books to classrooms during the Book Fair, plus another \$2,300 in books to our students. We are excited to help promote the love of reading at HES! After expenses, PTO still raised another \$900. Thanks to organizers Amber VanKarsen and Karyn Ruohonen-Rudak for countless hours worked before, during, and after the fair. We also appreciate our parent and student helpers, and Mrs. Mechlin for all of her assistance.

Thanks to **Giving Trees** Coordinator Vicki Locatelli and to HES families for your classroom contributions.

Coming Up:

Track Friday Annual Free Family Fitness Event:

Friday, January 10

PTO Meeting Tuesday, January 21 at 5:30 p.m.

in the School Library (no December meeting)

Information & Updates:

Like PTO on Facebook: facebook.com/HPTSPTO

Support
Houghton Elementary
School PTO.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazon smile



The Houghton Elementary student council is collecting non-perishable food items for the TV6 Canathon. All donations need to be made by December 4th. Since the event began in 1982, the people of Upper Michigan have donated over 3.44 million pounds of food to their local food pantries.