



March 2020 Houghton Elementary School

Houghton-Portage Township Schools

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March is Reading Month

This month Houghton Elementary School will celebrate Reading Month with the theme, "It's No Mystery: We Love Reading!" We will kick off Reading Month with an assembly on Monday, March 2nd. The assembly will include a skit, performed by staff that will give students a mystery to solve throughout the month.

Again this year, students will be encouraged to keep track of their reading at home. Every student will receive a reading log that will be turned in on Thursdays. We will have a school-wide reading goal with a celebration on Friday, March 20th if the goal is met. Only minutes spent reading at home will be counted. If every student reads for about 20 minutes each day, we will reach our goal! As before, students will earn double minutes for going "Unplugged" on Thursdays. If students do not use electronics, including TV, iPads, and video games, they will double the reading minutes that they record on their reading logs.



The evening of Thursday, March 12th promises to bring much excitement to Houghton Elementary. The Science Fair will be held from 4-6 p.m. and Reading Night will be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. This year our Reading Night will include an escape room, reading activities, and a craft. There will be mysteries lurking behind every door at Houghton Elementary School this month. What is not a mystery is the enthusiasm our staff and students have for Reading Month!!

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all. —Jacqueline Kennedy

Counselor's Corner—Micah Stipech

What Kind of Screen Time Parent Are You? Take This Quiz and Find Out

Anya Kamanetz surveyed over 500 families. She interviewed dozens of experts who study kids and media to find out best practices, based on the latest research for her new book, *The Art of Screen Time: How Your Family Can Balance Digital Media And Real Life*. She set out to answer the question: What's the best approach to take to tech? In answering this question she boiled all of her research down to this slogan, "Enjoy screens. Not too much. Mostly together."

The quiz on the link below can help assess your parenting style with regards to technology. Take a few minutes — hopefully while your kids are otherwise occupied — to check it out! [Screen Time Quiz](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **March is Reading Month**
- **March 2nd**— Family Science & Engineering Night 5:30—7:00 pm
- **March 8th**— Daylight Savings Time
- **March 10th**— Baby E's Giveback Night
- **March 11th**— PD, Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm
- **March 12th**—HES Science Fair—4th & 5th Grades 4:00—6:00 pm Family Reading Night 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- **March 19th**— 19-20 Kindergarten Parent Information Night 6 pm
- **March 23rd— March 27th**— Spring Break No School
- **March 30th**— School Resumes
- **April 3rd**— 3rd Marking Period Ends
- **April 3rd**— PTO Spring FUNdraiser

MARCH IS READING MONTH

BENEFITS OF READING to your Child

Parents play an integral part in their children's education and helping them reach their full potential. Here are some benefits of reading to your children:

Helps them sleep.

Getting a good night's rest is important for developing children, and reading to them while they are in bed can calm their minds and bodies.

Improves communication skills.

When you spend time reading to children, they will be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way.

Creates new bonds.

With a majority of our days spent looking at computer, TV and phone screens, it's important to take a few moments to spend quality time with your children. Reading to your children also can build an emotional connection. It's a win-win.

Teaches them the basics.

Teaching children to read is like building a house — you need to have a solid foundation that you can build upon later in life.

Improves logical thinking skills.

Reading to children helps their ability to grasp abstract concepts, apply logic, recognize cause and effect, and use good judgment.



PTO Corner

You Support PTO. PTO Supports Our School.

BBQ Gives Back: Dine in or out on **Tuesday, March 10** at **Baby E's BBQ** and mention HES PTO. Ten percent of your order will be donated to PTO! This is a great opportunity to support our school and check out Baby E's expanded menu at their new location in the former Hardee's building.

Save the Date: Mark your calendars for the **Spring Fling FUNdraiser** to be held the evening of **Friday, April 3**. Our biggest fundraising event of the year will include dancing, live DJ, games with prizes, raffle, auction, cake walk, concessions, and more! **NEW: Watch for an Admission Pre-Sale, plus up to 2 accompanying adults and children age 3 and under get in FREE!**

Coming Up: **Baby E's Give Back, Tuesday, March 10 (11am-7pm), PTO Meeting Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the School Library, Spring Fling, Friday, April 3 6-8:30pm**

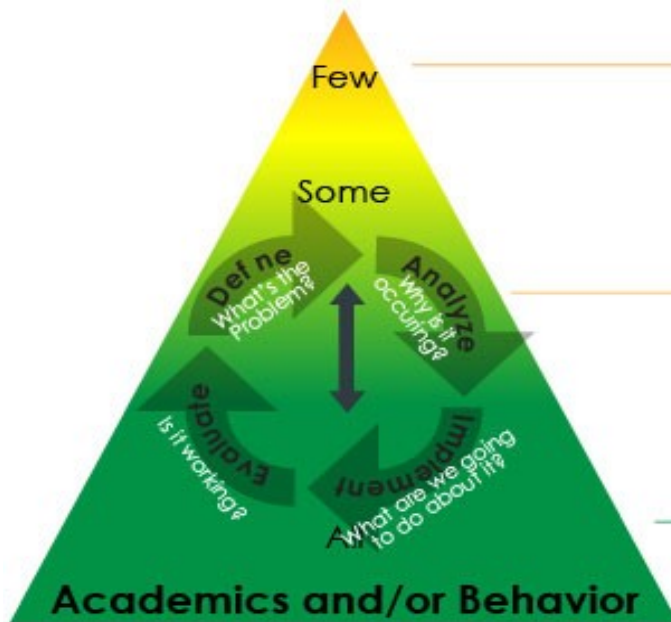
Like PTO on Facebook: [facebook.com/HPTSPTO](https://www.facebook.com/HPTSPTO)

SPRING FLING

MTSS Corner

What is MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support)?

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support is a prevention based framework of team-driven, data-based decision making to improve outcomes for every student, both behaviorally and academically. The framework involves building tiers of support for all students based on evidence based practices in education.



Tier 3: Intensive, Individualized Interventions & Supports

The most intense (increased time, narrowed focus, reduced group size) instruction and intervention, based on individual student need, provided in addition to and aligned with Tier 1 & 2 academic and behavior instruction and supports.

Tier 2: Targeted, Supplemental Interventions & Supports

More targeted instruction/intervention and supplemental support, in addition to and aligned with, the core academic and behavior curriculum.

Tier 1: Core, Universal Instruction & Supports

General academic and behavior instruction and support provided to all students in all settings, designed and differentiated for all student strategies.

Data Celebrations

Kindergarten Tier III move from 14% to 5% on Acadience , TIER II 22% to 14%

5th grade moving students from Tier II/III up to Tier II/I in Acadience (hard to move at this level)

96.7% of students have 1 or less major office referrals.

School wide: 84% at benchmark for reading

Goals:

By Spring 2020, decrease our School Wide Tier 3 total to 5% and keep Tier 2 under 15%

Increase the Reading Total TFI Score to 75% by Spring 2020

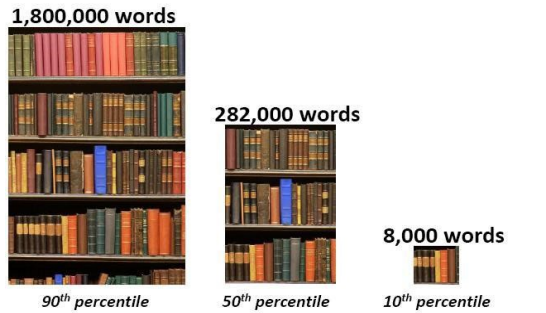
By Spring 2020, increase our School Wide Tier 1 to 90%+

Maintain School Wide Office Discipline Referrals at less than 0.9*



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

| Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day | Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day | Student "C" reads 1 minute each day |
|--|---|--|
| 3600 minutes in a school year | 900 minutes in a school year | 180 minutes in a school year |



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?
(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

| Student A Reads | Student B Reads | Student C Reads |
|--|--|--|
| ❖ 20 minutes per day. | ❖ 5 minutes per day. | ❖ 1 minute per day |
| ❖ 3,600 minutes per school year. | ❖ 900 minutes per school year. | ❖ 180 minutes per school year. |
| ❖ 1,800,000 words per year. | ❖ 282,000 words per year. | ❖ 8,000 words per year. |
| ❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests. | ❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests. | ❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests. |

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 schooldays, and Student C will have read for 3.
(Nagy and Herman, 1987)

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.

Three Ways to Read to Your Child

March is Michigan Reading Month! If you're not committed to reading daily with your child, there's no better time than now!

Reading aloud

Choose books your child is interested in that he/she may not be able to read yet. Read with expression and excitement to keep your child engaged in the story. Show your child the pictures and let your child predict what might happen next. Continue reading aloud to your child even after he/she can read on his/her own. Studies show that regularly reading out loud to children will produce significant gains in reading

comprehension, vocabulary, and decoding of words.

Reading together

Sit next to your child as you read together. Try reading every other page. Guide your child in sounding out appropriate words so interruptions don't take away from enjoyment. Take time to look at pictures and discuss the story. Take a bag of books with you on a trip or anywhere you may have to sit and wait. Your attitude will have a great influence on how hard your child will try to become a good reader.

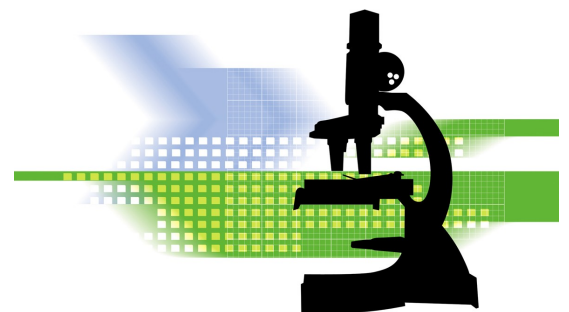
Reading alone

Keep books all around the house, especially in the bathroom and next to your child's bed. This is a great way to encourage reading alone. Winding down with a book before bed works well for preparing your child to go to sleep. Notice what kind of books your child chooses to read and look for more books by the same author at the library.



Science Fair

Our annual Science Fair will be held on March 12th for all 4th and 5th grade students. Viewing will be from 4:00—6:00 pm.



Attendance in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even pre-K, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?

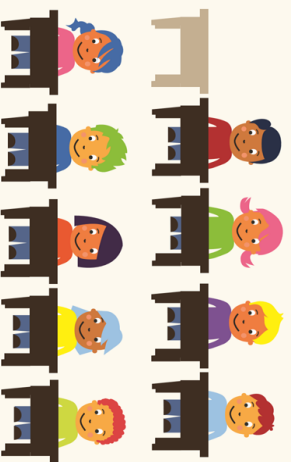


Who is affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids

miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids

are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids

miss too much school when families move.²



Why it matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?



64% of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43% of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)



41% of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)



17% of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

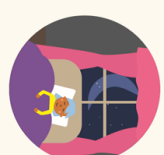
What families can do



Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.

Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.

Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.



Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.



Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Keep a chart recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.

Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help



Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.

¹ Chang, Heily, Romero, Manages, Present, *Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty, NY, NY, September 2008.
² Chronic Absence in Utah, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.
³ Attendance in Early Elementary Grades, Association for Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

Kindergarten Round-Up 2020-20

Houghton Portage Township Schools has begun registering kindergarten-aged children for the 2020-2021 school year. We will be holding an informational night on Thursday, March 19 at 6 pm where parents can pick up enrollment packets, hear about our program and sign their child up to be screened. Children who will be five years of age by December 1st, 2020, are eligible to enter kindergarten or Young 5's. **Please call Houghton Elementary School at 482-0456 ext. 3040 to pre-register your child.** Children currently attending Young 5's are automatically registered for kindergarten. Please pass this information on to parents of kindergarten age children.



February 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 cookies and milk with the principal and receive a certificate. Our February honorees are:

Young 5's: Scarlett Bier

K: Eero Saaranen, Aamira Sundstrom, Kaleigh Harris, Finn Oja & Layne Massaway

1st : Isabella Xie, Finley Matteson, Aurelie Frick & Salwa Rawashdeh

2nd: Emma Johnson, Carson Roth, Ellen Mattila, Jeremiah Bal & Suvie Ten

3rd: Thomas LaTendresse, Aanika Schlieff, Garek Guilbault, Amelia Chopp & Brandon Butkovich

4th: Maylee Wall, Gunner Gullstrand, Lanie Juntikka & Tate Evans

5th: Ellie Hainault, Reese Gwaltney, Sadie Statler, Desi Holden & Eleanor Portfleet

Congratulations!

TEAM Students



Lost And Found

Please help! Our lost and found is overflowing. Please come in and see if anything belongs to your child. Our lost and found is located right outside the cafeteria. We will be donating the contents to local charities over Spring Break.

LOST & FOUND

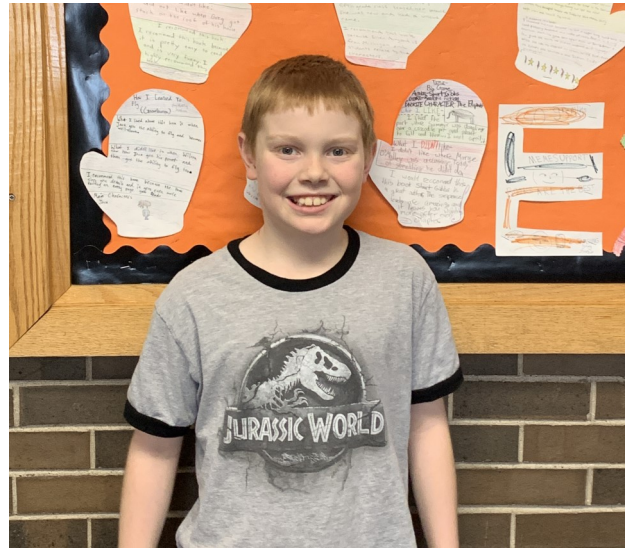
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Congratulations to Casey Hiller for winning 5th grade Regional Spelling Bee! They will compete in the Upper Peninsula Spelling Bee Finals in March.



Jump Rope for Heart

The goal of Jump Rope for Heart is to help raise funds for the American Heart Association. Over the past nine years, our school community has raised over \$125,000 for this worthy cause. The American Heart Association has a Thank-You Gift program set up to encourage students with their fundraising efforts. In addition, our school has set up additional Thank-You Rewards for students to encourage them with their efforts: (These rewards will take place at our School-Wide Jump Rope for Heart assembly on Friday, April 3rd)

- #1 - Fundraise \$50 and the students name will be entered into a drawing for an Amazon tablet!
- #2 - Fundraise \$100 and the student will get to throw water balloons at Mr. Hill or Mr. Lawson'!
- #3 - Fundraise \$200 and the student will get to Silly String a Teacher!
- #4 – If our school tops our Jump Rope for Heart fundraising total from last year of \$12,800, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Hill will be made into Human Pancakes! (Top 10 Fund-Raisers will get to help)
- #5 - If our school tops our all-time best year of Jump Rope for Heart fundraising total of \$23,500, Mr. Lawson will teach in a Gorilla Suit for one week and dance at the School-Wide Assembly!



SPRING BREAK

Houghton-Portage Township Schools will be closed for Spring Break from March 23rd-through March 27^h. Classes will resume for all students on Monday, March 30th.