2020– 2021 Houghton Elementary School Student Handbook

203 W. Jacker Avenue Houghton MI, 49930 906-483-0456

www.houghton.k12.mi.us

District Vision & Mission Statement

Our vision is to be a premier school district where all students have the foundations for success and are challenged to reach their full potential.

Our mission is to provide an excellent education that prepares all students to become productive citizens and life-long learners.

Houghton Elementary Mission Statement

Every Student, Every Day!



Approved August 10, 2020

Welcome to Houghton Portage Township Schools! It is our intent that this handbook will provide you with most of the necessary information concerning programs, rules, procedures, staff, and schedules both at the district level and at the individual building level. Please do not hesitate to call our offices or stop in if you have any questions or concerns.

At Houghton Elementary we are committed to providing a quality education for your child. It is our job and our goal to continually challenge ourselves to meet the needs of our students. As parents, you are extremely vital to us. Your support, input, and involvement will assist us in preparing your child for a successful future.

In order to accomplish this, we must keep the lines of communication open. Whenever you have a question or concern, please feel free to call your child's teacher or principal, and we can begin to work together.

The upcoming school year promises to be exciting and rewarding. Together we can provide a quality experience for all the children in Houghton.

Sincerely,

Anders Hill Principal ahill@hpts.us

906-482-0456 Ext. 3000



Board of Education

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Welcome to Our School

The Houghton Elementary School office is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please note that because we have no personnel assigned to ensure the safety of children before 7:30 a.m. we cannot welcome children into the building or on the grounds until that time. Please *do not send or drop off* your child before that time. Breakfast is available at 7:40 a.m. for those students purchasing breakfast. Students arriving before 8:16 a.m. must go outside for recess and therefore should dress appropriately. Students will be marked tardy after the second bell (8:21 a.m.) and absent for the morning if they arrive after 8:35.

Houghton-Portage Twp. Elementary School Calendar 2020-2021

Sept. 8 Sept 15 Sept 16	Opening Day – <u>Students Report For Full-Day Of School @ 8:16 a.m.</u> K, 1 st & 2 nd grades ~ Individual School Pictures 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th grades ~ Individual School Pictures
Oct. 9 Oct. TBA	No School for students – Full Day In-Service for Teachers Title I Parent Night
Nov 6	1st Marking Period Ends
Nov. 12 Nov. 13 Nov. 25 Nov. 26-27	12:20pm Dismissal for students - Parent/Teacher Conferences (scheduled thru classroom teacher) 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. 12:20pm Dismissal for students- Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-3 p.m. No School- Full day In-Service for Teachers No School - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. TBA <u>Dec. 21– Jan. 1</u> Jan. 4 <u>Jan 21</u> <u>Jan 22</u>	Winter Concert - plans will be announced at a later date No School - District Wide - Winter Break School Resumes 12:20pm Dismissal for students — Afternoon records day 12:20pm Dismissal for students — Afternoon records day 2 nd Marking Period Ends — End of 1 st Semester
<u>Feb 19</u>	No School – Full Day In-Service for Teachers
March 12 March 26 March 29-April 5	No School – Full Day In-Service for Teachers 3 rd Marking Period Ends No School – District Wide- Spring Break
April 6	School Resumes
<u>May 31</u>	No School – District Wide- Memorial Day
June 9 June 10	Last Day of School (if no make-up days are required) – Grade K-5 dismissal at 5 th Grade Banner Presentation - 5 th Grade Parents Welcome! Records Day for Teachers

First Name	Last Name	Position	Position Detail	
Amy	Aldrich	Teacher	5 th Grade	
Jane	Anderson	Staff	Speech Therapist	
Hillary	Arundel	Teacher	Music	
Melissa	Baker	Teacher	3 rd Grade	
Lilly	Behm	Staff	Parapro	
Shirley	Belej	Staff	Secretary	
Kriss	Bosley	Teacher	Title 1	
Pam	Bostwick	Teacher	2 nd Grade	
Scott	Demske	Teacher	3 rd Grade	
Robin	Dueweke	Teacher	Kindergarten	
Ashley	Dunston	Teacher	1 st Grade	
Sara	Eisinger	Teacher	Resource Room/ At-Risk	
Lynn	Erickson	Teacher	Young 5's	
Gael	Filpus	Teacher	4 th Grade	
Beth	Fisher	Teacher	2 nd Grade	
Kelly	Fontaine	Teacher	Music	
Amy	Forsell	Director	Youth Services	
Laurel	Givens	Teacher	1 st Grade	
Brandi	Hainault	Techer	2 nd Grade	
Danielle	Hendrickson	Teacher	Kindergarten	
Andee	Hiner	Staff	Young 5's	
Melissa	Hronkin	Teacher	Art	
Karen	Huuta	Staff	Lunch Aide	
Amy	Isaacson	Staff	Parapro	
Neeta	Jacobson	Teacher	4 th Grade	
Emelia	Johnson	Teacher	3 rd Grade	
Erik	Johnson	Teacher	5 th Grade	
Ken	Klein	Teacher	4 th Grade	
Nora	Korkko	Staff	Resource Room	
Madison	Labyak	Teacher	5 th Grade	

Jared	Lawson	Teacher	PE	
Charity	Lee	Teacher	Resource Room	
Shannon	Lehto	Teacher	4 th Grade	
Kathy	Lund	Staff	Parapro	
Ray	Martens	Staff	Lunch Aide	
Kim	Matson	Teacher	5 th Grade	
Jenifer	Mattila	Teacher	1 st Grade	
Kristina	Mechlin	Teacher	Librarian	
Alana	Nolan	Teacher	Kindergarten	
Jessica	Karvakko	Staff	Secretary	
Dawn	Plummer	Staff	Parapro	
Ann	Polkinghorn	Staff	Parapro	
J.R.	Repp	Teacher	3 rd Grade	
Lisa	Ronis	Teacher	3 rd Grade	
Sara	Rutz	Teacher	Computers	
Alissa	Schmidt	Teacher	2 nd Grade	
Rebekah	Schmidt	Teacher	1 st Grade	
Bridget	Kinnunen	Staff	Food Service	
Micah	Stipech	Teacher	Counselor	
Sheri	Tapani	Staff	Secretary	
Mollie	Trewartha	Teacher	5 th Grade	
Shelby	Turnquist	Director	Food Service	
Blaire	Zenner	Teacher	Kindergarten	
Kristen	Zimmerman	Teacher	Kindergarten	

Grade	Lunch	Recess		
K/ Y5's	11:05 – 11:30 am (Class)	10:45 – 11:05 am		
1 st	11:10 – 11:35 am (Class)	11:35 – 11:55 am		
2 nd	12:00 – 12:25 pm (Class)	12:25 – 12:45 pm		
3 rd	10:50 – 11:15am (Cafeteria)	11:15 am – 11:35 am		
4 th	11:35 – 12:00 pm (Cafeteria)	12:00 pm - 12:20 pm		
5 th	12:30 pm – 12:55 pm (Cafeteria)	12:55 pm – 1:15 pm		
nm				

K – 5th Grade 8:15 am – 3:18 pm Y5's & K Recess 9:25 – 9:55 am 1st & 2nd Recess 10:00 – 10:30 am 3rd Recess 1:40 – 2:10 pm 4th & 5th Recess 2:15 – 2:45 pm K & Y5's Recess 2:50 – 3:05 pm

School Day Hours

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

This handbook is a <u>summary</u> of the school's rules and expectations, and is <u>not</u> a comprehensive statement of school procedures. The Board's comprehensive policy manual is available for public inspection through the District's website http://www.neola.com/hptownship-mi/

ANIMALS:

Live animals may be brought to school for educational purposes with the classroom teacher's permission. Visiting animals may not remain in the classroom for the entire day, will not be transported on the bus, and must be brought in by a parent. To ensure safety pets are not permitted in the school hallways immediately before or after school, even when accompanied by a parent.

ARTICLES NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL

- Cellular phones if needed for a special purpose, the teacher and office
 must be notified (phones must be turned off while in school and on the
 bus) or teacher may allow for use on special project with parent
 permission.
- Valuable items (CD players, MP3 Players, radios, headphones, electronic games, sports cards, etc)
- Toys of any kind (unless designated by teacher)
- Water pistols or any type of shooting toy
- Sports equipment (baseballs, baseball bats, skateboards, etc.)
- Articles or items for the purpose of selling or trading with friends or teachers
- Knives, lasers, or other dangerous objects
- Paintballs or other related equipment
- Chewing gum
- Tennis shoes with wheels are not permitted. Wheels must be removed.

Students are responsible for items they choose to bring which have not been requested by the school.

ATTENDANCE

The importance of regular attendance cannot be over emphasized and this is essential for learning. Students are expected to be in the classroom when school begins. Students who enter the classroom late disrupt instruction. Students are also expected to remain in their class until the end of the day.

Parents are required to call the school office at 482-0456 when they know that their child is going to be absent. Please provide a note to the teacher if your child is to leave early or dismiss in an alternate manner than usual.

Recording Attendance

Attendance is recorded twice each day: once in the morning and then again in the afternoon. Teachers mark students as either present, absent, or tardy. Students are expected to be in their seats ready to begin working five minutes after the first morning bell. Students will be marked tardy after the second bell (8:21 a.m.) Students arriving after 8:35 will be marked as absent for the morning and students arriving 15 minutes after the conclusion of lunch recess will be marked absent for the afternoon. Students who leave school before 1:30 pm will be considered absent for the afternoon.

Excused and Unexcused Absences

Illness, medical appointments, religious reasons, family emergencies and unavoidable trips are acceptable reasons for being absent. Absences are classified as **Excused** or **Unexcused**. Upon returning to school after an absence, each student must present a written or verbal excuse (from parent or guardian) giving the reason for the absence within three school days. **Parents should call the school office or attendance line at 482-0456 when they know that their child is going to be absent to excuse the absence.**

If a child misses 3 or more consecutive days of school, a note from a doctor may be required for the absences to be excused. If a child misses 10 or more days of school that are unexcused, they will be referred to our truancy officer.

Excessive Absences

Excessive absence from school is defined as <u>ten or more days</u> absent (excused or unexcused) and/or ten or more tardies.

- 1. At ten days absent and/or ten tardies, parents will receive a letter indicating the total days absent and the total number of tardies recorded. The Principal will then confer with the parents to determine the circumstances surrounding the absences and/or tardies and to determine if further action is necessary.
- 2. At 15 days absent and/or 15 tardies, parents will receive a second letter indicating the total days absent and the total number of tardies recorded. The parent and/or guardian must submit a written statement explaining the reason for the absences and/or tardies.
- 3. At 20 days absent and/or 20 tardies, the Principal will determine to either contact with a truancy officer for resolution or seek an alternate remedy. *State law requires attendance in school.*

Parents/guardians must sign students out of the building at the office for all early dismissals.

BICYCLES

Students in grades three, four and five who normally walk to school, may ride their bicycles. Please notify the office. Parents should discuss with their children the need for safety when riding bicycles: (1) Bicycles are to travel on the side of the road with traffic; (2) Bicycles are to be walked while on school grounds; (3) Bicycles should be parked in the proper area during school hours; (4) For security reasons, we recommend that bicycles be locked; (5) Students will ride only their own bike and they will ride it in a manner that will not endanger others. We cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage.

BULLYING, INTIMIDATION & HARASSMENT

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment are not acceptable in any form and will not be tolerated at school or any school-related activity. The school will protect students against retaliation for reporting incidents of bullying, intimidation, or harassment, and will take disciplinary action against any student who participates in such conduct.

No person shall harass, intimidate or bully another based upon race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, or religion. The school and district will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Students who believe they are victims of bullying, intimidation or harassment or have witnessed such activities are encouraged to discuss the matter with the student nondiscrimination coordinator, building administrator or a complaint manager. Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

Any student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in bullying, intimidation or harassment will be subject to disciplinary consequences as provided in this handbook, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the school and district's discipline policy. Parents of students who have engaged in the above behavior will be notified. Any student making a knowingly

false accusation regarding harassment may also be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers:

Julie Filpus	
F	
1603 Gundlach Road	
Houghton, MI 49931	
ifilpus@houghton.k12.mi.us	
906-482-0456	

BUS REGULATIONS

Every bus rider must follow the bus rules when at the bus stop and when riding on the bus, or be subject to disciplinary action, which may include loss of bus riding privileges. The Houghton Elementary School bus rules are as follows:

- 1. Be at the bus stop on time and stand back at least ten feet from the bus. If you are picked up in front of your home, please be sure to wait outside for the bus.
- 2. Wait until the bus has come to a complete stop, form a line and board the bus without pushing or shoving.
- 3. Be seated and face forward. If you have an assigned seat, you must remain in the seat unless directed by the driver.
- 4. No moving around or changing seats and do not open windows unless approved by the bus driver.
- 5. Throwing objects and inappropriate behavior, as determined by the bus driver, may cause suspension.
- 6. Do not eat or drink on the bus.

Students must ride to and from school on the bus to which they have been assigned. Only when a note from the parent/guardian has been brought to the office or to the classroom teacher may a student be allowed to walk home or to ride another bus home.

Parent or responsible adult is required to meet kindergarten/ Y5's students at bus stops.

CANCELLATIONS / CLOSINGS

Inclement weather or building maintenance situations sometimes force schools to delay, cancel or close early on short notice. On stormy or icy days, please listen to local radio stations for information.

• If there should be a <u>late start</u> for any reason (weather conditions, etc.), this will be announced on the local radio stations and school will often start

two hours late. School will begin at 10:15 am for students and breakfast will not be served.

 If there should be an <u>early dismissal</u> for any reason (weather conditions, etc.) your child should know where to go and what to do without using the phone. Your child will be dismissed as indicated on their emergency card in the office.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Gremlin Extended Time (GEt)

The Houghton Elementary School offers an after-school program for children in kindergarten through grade 5. This program will be available on days that school is in session. Hours will be from 3:18 p.m. (dismissal) until 5:30 p.m. The program will begin on the first day of school and follow the school calendar including holidays, vacations, etc. If a teacher in-service is scheduled or school is canceled due to inclement weather, the program will not operate.

Low cost user fees will be charged to help operate and to sustain the program. To enroll your child, please sign up in the main office. The program is licensed by the State of Michigan. Program curriculum includes a healthy snack followed by tutoring or homework help, hands-on learning and enrichment activities including art, science, sports, health, drama, music, outdoors, recreation and interest or explorer clubs.

Our intent is to work as a team with parents or guardians for the best after school care plan for each child. Your patience, support, and follow through are necessary and greatly appreciated. We reserve the right to expel a child from our after school program for any of the following reasons: 1. The child's needs are not being met in our small or large group setting. 2. Failure of parent/guardian to provide information and/or follow the guidelines required of the program. 3. The child is a safety threat to himself/herself, other children, or the after school care staff.

COMMUNICATIONS

Parents/guardians and teachers have joint responsibility for child development. In order to inform parents of their child's progress, conferences are scheduled at the end of the first marking period. Additional conferences are encouraged and may be requested by the parents/guardians or teachers as deemed necessary. In an effort to keep parent/guardians informed of special school events, both regularly scheduled newsletters and special announcement flyers will be sent home with students. Parents can receive information through our email listserv. Announcements, reminders and updated information will be provided weekly or as needed. To subscribe to the Elementary School Parent Listserv send an email to:

esparents+subscribe@houghton.k12.mi.us

Parents are encouraged to visit our district/elementary school website for all announcements and general school information: www.houghton.k12.mi.us

CONFERENCES

Regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall of each school year. An afternoon and evening is set aside for the convenience of parents. We hope you will make a special effort to come, as a conference with your child's teacher is of great importance to the child and helpful to you. Since conference dates are set annually, please check the school calendar every fall for the schedule of conference dates. The school staff welcomes additional conferences. Arrangements can readily be made by calling or stopping in at the school office. Please make appointments with teachers for any special conference in advance by contacting the teacher. The principal may be called upon at any time to assist parents or teachers with problems. Students mature and develop at different rates physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually. In some instances, it may be advisable to retain a student at a particular level to allow academic growth and maturations to occur. The decision to retain or promote rests with the school principal. Each teacher is required to keep parents informed on a regular basis. Parents should be well informed as to what is happening in the classroom and the status of the progress of their child. Report cards are also used to communicate student progress. Praise your child's accomplishments and encourage additional effort where needed.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The school will observe recommendations of the Michigan Department of Community/Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

- 1. The student's parent/guardian is required to notify the school office if they suspect their child has a communicable disease.
- 2. In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent/guardian.
- 3. The school will provide written instructions to the parent/guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease.
- 4. A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent/guardian provides the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling services are available and may be requested by staff or parents.

DISCIPLINE - SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

School-wide Positive Behavior Support is a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behavior with all students. All students will be expected to follow the outcomes of our school wide positive behavior expectations. Students will:

Take responsibility Earn respect Act positively Make it safe

TEAM Behavior Expectation Matrix

HOUSTON BE OF THE PROPERTY OF	Hallways	Cafeteria	Playground	Restrooms	Dismissal	Bus
TE AM		3	, 0			
ERYDE	Keep the hallways clean and organized	Get everything you need when you go through the	Wear weather appropriate clothing	Go, flush, wash, leave	Be where you need to be	Keep the bus clean
Take	Be where you need to be	line Clean up after yourself	Keep the playground clean	Keep the bathroom clean	Take your belongings with you	Get on and off the bus at your assigned stop
Responsibility		Take only what you ordered	Ask for permission to go inside	Report problems to an adult		Take your belongings with you
		Use this time to eat	Line up when signaled, eyes and body forward			Use school appropriate language
	Follow the directions of all adults	Follow the directions of all adults	Follow the directions of all adults	Use quiet voices Give others	Follow the directions of all adults	Follow the directions of all adults
Earn Respect	Use quiet voices	Wait your turn in the lunch line	Enter the building quietly	privacy		Use quiet voices
	Walk around groups of adults and/or students	Use quiet voices		Keep your hands to yourself		Allow personal space
	Keep your hands at sides	Raise your hand for help				
	Use kind words and actions	Use kind words and actions	Use kind words and actions	Use kind words and actions	Use kind words and actions	Use kind words and actions
Act Positively	Help others	Help others	Help others	Help others	Help others	Help others
·	Quietly greet others	Say "Please," "Thank you," or "No, thank you"	Invite others to play/ Take turns	Theip others	Theip others	
	Walk	Walk	Use equipment correctly	Walk	Walk	Walk
	Stay to the right	Keep your food to yourself	Stay inside the fence	Wash your hands	Use sidewalks where available	Eyes and body face forward
Make it Safe	Eyes and body face forward	Eyes and body face the table	Report unsafe behaviors to adults		Only leave with a	Stay in your seat
	Keep your hand on the railing	Stay in your seat			parent/guardian or other pre-arranged adult	Look out for street traffic
		Take small bites while eating				

TEAM Consequence Rubric Major Problem Behavior Major Problem Behavior Minor Problem Behavior Staff Managed Staff Managed Office Managed Defiance- Refusal to follow expectations Defiance- Repeated refusal to follow Defiance- Continuous (more than 2 times) refusal Technology Violation- Non-serious, expectations, responds to redirection to follow expectations, does not respond to inappropriate use, or appropriate use and re-engage redirection and is unable to re-engage. but at inappropriate time Technology Violation-Technology Violation- Continuous inappropriate use of technology, and/or viewing inappropriate Inappropriate use of technology, ignores **Property Misuse-**Take Responsibility Using school property inappropriately correction from adult content on technology Property Misuse/ Damage-Property Misuse/ Damageor not as intended Throwing/misuse of school property Breaking, defacing school property that causes without breaking it damage that is difficult to correct Disrespect-Low-intensity, socially-rude, Disrespect- Continuous low-intensity, Disrespect- Continuous low-intensity, socially-rude, or dismissive messages to adults or students, does or dismissive messages to adults or socially-rude, or dismissive messages to students adults or students, responds to not responds to redirection and is unable re-Disruption- Intentional distractions redirection and re-engages engages Earn Respect Disruption- Repeated intentional Disruption- Continuous intentional distractions, distractions, responds to redirection and responds to redirection and re-engages re-engages Abusive Language /Inappropriate Inappropriate Language- Use of low Abusive Language/Inappropriate Languageintensity inappropriate, non-school Use of profanity or abusive language or use of Languageappropriate, language Use of profanity or abusive language or language in an inappropriate way (directed at a use of language in an inappropriate way person) Act Positively (not directed at a person) Harassment/Bullying-Continuous messages that involve intimidation, Harassment/Bullying-Delivering a message that involves intimidation, teasing, taunting, threats, or name calling -(examples- messages that are related to gender, teasing, taunting, threats, or name calling ethnicity, sex, race, religion, disability) Physical Aggression-Physical Aggression-Physical Aggression-Inappropriate physical contact, non-Physical aggression Physical aggression that causes harm and done in serious or accidental but inappropriate (examples- pushing, grabbing, poking, anger tickling, pulling hair, and throwing snowballs) Make it Safe

STUDIO DE LA MODITOR DE LA MOD	Minor Problem Behavior Staff Managed Level 1	Major Problem Behavior Staff Managed Level 2	Major Problem Behavior Office Managed Level 3		
ERY DE	Staff Potential Actions/ Potential Consequences				
	Always Reteach Expected Behavior	Always Reteach Expected Behavior Parent Contact Submit Log Entry Loss of Privilege Apology Time Owed Recess Detention Lunch Detention Redo Assignment Fail Assignment Reflection Sheet Teacher/Student Conference	Always Reteach Expected Behavior Parent Contact Parent/ Student Conference Submit Log Entry Loss of Privilege Apology Reflection Sheet Recess Detention Lunch Detention Restorative Action Parent Contact Redo Assignment Fail Assignment In School Suspension Out of School Detention After School Detention		

DISCIPLINE-GENERAL CONDUCT

Our goal is to help children to develop the self-discipline they need to become mature and responsible adults. It is important that the home and school work together for HIGH EXPECTATIONS of GOOD BEHAVIOR. Please remember that what is seen, heard and overheard by children outside of school is often imitated and repeated at school. The following are rules that MUST BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES:

- 1. Be honest, considerate, and respectful of others.
- 2. Listen to and follow directions of persons in authority.
- 3. Respect school and personal property.
- 4. Keep hands, feet and objects to one's self.
- 5. Speak quietly and walk in hallways.
- 6. Keep inappropriate toys such as yo-yo's, laser pointers, Pokémon cards, and other "fad toys" away from the school and off the bus.
- 7. Do not chew gum.
- 8. Do not engage in activities that are harmful to you or to others.

DISCIPLINE-LUNCHROOM RULES

In order to provide a healthy and pleasant noon hour, it is necessary to enforce rules and maintain order. Teachers and supervisors will enforce the following basic rules:

- 1. Follow the directions of lunchroom supervisors.
- 2. Speak quietly and use polite table manners.
- 3. Walk and move carefully in the lunchroom without distracting others.
- 4. Keep all food in the lunchroom.
- 5. Sit at assigned classroom tables.
- 6. Clean up after one's self by bringing trays and utensils to designated area and cleaning up personal area of table.
- 7. Remain in the school/on school grounds during the lunch hour unless advanced written permission dictates otherwise.

DISCIPLINE-PLAYGROUND/RECESS RULES

We believe recesses are an important part of the total school curriculum; all students are expected to go outside to get some physical exercise. When returning to school after an illness, the parent may send a note requesting the child stay inside for a maximum of three days. The parent should send a signed statement from the family physician stating the necessity of the child staying in the building, if an extended time is necessary. Students will go outside for recess unless it is raining (more than a mist) or below 0 degrees (with wind chill accounted).

Adult supervision is provided for the safety and enjoyment of the children. However, the very nature of recess play makes it necessary to enforce the following standards for behavior:

- 1. All students must remain on the playground area.
- All students must obtain permission for a playground supervisor to reenter the building.
- 3. All students will avoid rough games including: contact games, tackle football, dodge ball, wrestling, pushing from snow banks, etc.
- All students will be respectful of playground supervisors and other children.
- 5. All students will use appropriate language, manners, and behavior.
- 6. All students will use equipment such as swings and slides appropriately.
- Students may not sit or walk on the retaining wall under the basketball nets.
- 8. Students will not throw rocks, sticks, snowballs or any other potentially dangerous objects.
- 9. Students will not carry or play with sticks or other potentially dangerous objects.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER

CONSEQUENCES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

If a student has difficulty following basic rules and guidelines for safe behavior, their parents/guardians will receive communication from the principal or teacher asking for support. Students breaking rules will be subject to our consequence rubric.

- * A copy of the School Board Discipline Policy is available upon request.
- * Level of consequence may not follow sequence depending on the severity of the misconduct.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

As a result of inappropriate behavior in school, students may be asked to provide an active solution to repair any harm they have done to others in the school community. This will be done through a variety of informal and formal meetings. Handbook consequences may be altered as a result of restorative meetings.

DRESS CODE

Students may dress according to individual choice as long as their manner of dress does not interfere with the learning process, endanger health and safety, or disrupt classes. Hats are not to be worn in the school building by students, faculty or volunteers except on special occasions. The principal will notify the students when that time will occur. Articles of clothing cannot contain words or pictures that are lewd, profane, target a specific group such as gender, race, religion etc., or promote illegal activities. Students who violate the dress code policy will be given one warning and may result in the student being sent home and marked unexcused for time missed.

All students must wear appropriate shoes for school use especially for gym participation and outside recess. Wearing a pair of sneakers on gym days is a requirement. A sneaker, a low or flat heel, or a closed shoe would be appropriate. Students that wear shoes that have no protection for their feet are not allowed to use the playground facilities. Students with sandals or open toe shoes are not allowed on the playground equipment and must remain on blacktop areas. Winter clothing is a requirement that includes a hat, gloves, boots, snow pants and a winter coat.

EARLY PICK UP OF STUDENTS

Parents that are picking up their child, just prior to the end of the class day, need to wait by the office area until their child has been released. Parents standing in the hallway in front of the classrooms or taking their children out a few minutes early has a disruptive effect on the classroom.

EMERGENCY CARDS

Emergency cards need to be updated yearly. The office must be informed of any change in information on emergency cards. **The school must have the student's current address and phone number at all times.** This information is especially important in cases of emergency. Please notify the school immediately when there is a change of address, telephone number, or emergency contacts.

FIRE, EVACUATION, LOCKDOWNS AND SEVERE WEATHER DRILLS

Necessary fire, evacuation, lockdowns and severe weather drills will occur throughout the school year. These drill practices are necessary to assure the safety of everyone in the event a real emergency does occurs. Teachers will explain drill procedures to students and directions for fire drills are posted in each classroom.

GIFTS

With the exception of parents/guardians or permission from the principal, no packages, presents, gifts, or goods of any kind will be accepted for delivery to any student. Such items, if delivered to the school, will be retained in the school office,

and the parents will be called to pick up the item. The school will assume no liability for any such items lost or misplaced.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

In accordance with state health regulations, all students must be immunized from communicable diseases. Proof of immunizations must be provided at the time of registration. Parents are required to complete, each school year, an updated emergency card that contains important health information, in addition to other data. Parents are urged to notify the school of any significant change in health that occurs in a child.

Parents should keep children home when they show symptoms of illness. If symptoms occur while in school, parents (or emergency contacts) will be called to arrange for the child to be taken home. In the event of an accident at school, every effort will be made to reach and notify the parent of the injured child. If medical attention is required and parents or other family cannot be reached, <u>911 may be called</u>. (Information on the emergency cards will be used for these procedures.)

All communicable diseases must be reported to the school including German measles, measles, mumps, chicken pox, scarlet fever, conjunctivitis (pink eye), mononucleosis, scabies and lice. Students will not be permitted to attend school if they are acutely ill, have a fever, have a severe/persistent cough, are vomiting or have diarrhea.

Children who have been out of school due to lice need be checked at the elementary office before returning to school. Children need to be "nit free" before they may attend classes.

HOMEWORK

Although it is not recommended to take children out of school for an extended period of time, if a parent/guardian makes a decision to remove his/her child from school for an extended period (three or more days), the teacher and the school principal must be notified of the intended absence at least one week in advance of the first day of the absence. Advance assignments and sending classroom materials, etc., will be limited and at the discretion of the teacher, recognizing that homework may not always be ready or available at that time. Lesson plans are for school use and are not provided to parents. If you take your child out of school for an extended amount of time, teachers are not required to prepare a separate curriculum or reteach a lesson and parents are responsible for assisting their child with required missing work.

INTERNET ACCESS

Students enjoy a variety of computer experiences at our school, including the Internet. Students MUST have a Houghton Elementary Technology Use form completed and signed by a parent before he/she can access the Internet at school. Although the Houghton Elementary School will try to limit a student's access to offensive sites by Internet filtering software and adult supervision, it cannot guarantee that a student will not access offensive sites. Students are prohibited from knowingly accessing offensive sites and should immediately exit and inform an adult if they accidentally access an offensive site. Failure to comply with these measures will result in the immediate revocation of the student's ability to use the Internet at school. The Houghton School District network uses district wide Internet filtering system. Students will be assigned a Google e-mail address and password to Google Drive to access online tools. Parents can request username and password to their child's account if they wish to monitor use.

LOST AND FOUND

A lost and found area is located in our building. Your child may check for lost articles. All coats, hats, boots and gloves should be labeled with your child's name. Parents may also come and check for missing items. Items not picked up will be donated to local charities in December, March and June.

LUNCHROOM PROGRAM

Our school provides a breakfast and hot lunch program for students. Milk can be purchased separately for students who bring their lunch. Student accounts are kept current by the hot lunch clerk and work off of a debit system. Families who qualify for the free/reduced lunch program must obtain and submit application forms that are available in the office.

MANDATED REPORTERS

Schoolteachers, counselors, social workers, and administrators, are required by law to immediately report all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Michigan Family Independence Agency.

MEDICATIONS

If it becomes necessary for a child to take medication at school, arrangements can be made with the office. Children are not permitted to keep medication of any kind on their person, in their lunch boxes or in their desks. All medication will be dispensed from the office. Parents of students needing medication must fill out and sign a medication contract. Forms are in the office.

To maintain the most accurate and safe administration of medications and treatment to your child, we would like you to be fully aware of the information below:

- The student's parent/guardian must provide the school with written permission and request to administer medication (prescription/nonprescription). The Medication Administration Permission slip needs to be completed for any medication your child needs to take.
 Forms are available in the elementary office.
- **Nonprescription Drugs** must be in the original container and labeled by a parent with child's name, time and dosage to be given.
- **Prescription Medications** must be kept in a labeled container as prepared by a pharmacy, physician, or pharmaceutical company and labeled with dosage and frequency of administration (this includes refills).
- Inhalers/Epipens- Parents/guardians must provide written permission and request to the school to allow a student to self-possess and to self-administer medication. Many children with asthma or severe allergic reactions are taught to carry their medication and to self-administer as part of their doctor-prescribed treatment regimen. Written instructions that include name of student, name of medication, dosage, time to be administered, route of administration, and duration of administration, and the physician/provider instruction that the student may self-possess and/or self-administer must be provided to the school.

Medication supply renewal is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and medication left over at the end of the year shall be picked up within 15 working days after school has ended. If medication is not retrieved by parent/guardian, the school will appropriately dispose of the medication and record this disposal on the medication log.

MONEY AND OTHER VALUABLES

If money is being sent to school, parents should realize the responsibility the child has. It would be wise to:

- 1. Place the money in an envelope;
- 2. Include a note inside, stating reason for the money being sent;
- 3. Place the teacher's name and the child's name on the outside of the envelope.

We discourage parents from allowing children to bring large amounts of money to school. Valuable equipment such as radios, computer games, calculators, etc. are not permitted unless there is a special occasion, and prior permission of the teacher and parent is granted. Any toy requiring a battery should not be brought to school without permission from the teacher.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

We urge all parents to become active participants in the PTO. The success is dependent on an active and large membership. The first step you can take in contributing to that success is becoming an active member. This group has made many valuable contributions to the district. Their support has provided our students with many special events, activities, and supplies.

PERIODIC HEALTH EXAMS

In compliance with the law, the Board of Education may require students to submit to periodic health examinations to protect the school community from the spread of communicable disease and determine that each student's participation in health, safety, and physical education courses meets his/her individual needs. The District shall specify the need for services which may include, but not be limited to: athletic physical examinations, dental examinations, tests for communicable diseases, temperature, vision screening, audiometric (hearing) screening, or head lice.

PICTURES

Families may purchase student pictures each year. Students will have their individual pictures taken early in the school year. Class pictures are taken towards the end of the school year. Specific information about the procedure and purchase of pictures will be sent home prior to picture day.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Children are held responsible for the condition of all textbooks and library books checked out to them. A charge will be assessed if these books are lost or damaged beyond the usual wear and tear. The school will supply pencils, paper, crayons, scissors, rulers and other necessary supplies.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

In order to maintain order safety and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

SCHOOL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, PERSONAL EFFECTS OF STUDENTS

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (*i.e.*, lockers, desks), as well as personal effects left in those locations by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there. The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons,

or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially-trained dogs.

STUDENTS

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (e.g., purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, cell phones) when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will produce evidence that the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school district's rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

SEIZURE OF PROPERTY

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

STUDENT PLACEMENT

Many variables enter into a student's placement each year. Reading levels, math levels, combination classroom assignments, separating certain children, and providing a proper boy/girl ratio in each classroom are considered. The building staff works hard to place every child in a good educational environment. Final responsibility for class assignments will rest with the principal. Teacher requests are not permitted due to the difficulty in developing balanced classrooms. Placements are available to parents mid-August before each school year and must be picked up at the elementary office (dates will be sent out on our email listserv and are available on our website).

STUDENT SIGN OUT PROCEDURE

Anyone coming into the school to take a child from the premises is to report to the office. Arrangements will be made for your child to meet you. Parents are required to sign the child out.

TESTING, ASSESSMENTS & DATA COLLECTION

As part of our efforts to meet the needs of all students, we provide several assessments to identify any areas where students may need extra support, and to measure the overall effectiveness of the instruction and supports we provide. The following are screenings and assessments that are used in our school system:

Michigan Statewide Assessments are given annually to most grades to gauge how well students are mastering state standards. These standards broadly outline what students should know and be able to do in order to be prepared to enter the

workplace, career education training, and college. Statewide assessments are administered online and include M-Step Assessments (starting in 3rd grade), K-2 Benchmark Assessments. Paper and pencil testing includes PSAT in grades 9 & 10, in grade 11 the SAT, and ACT WorkKeys.

Hearing/vision screenings take place on alternating years depending on grade level. Hearing screenings take place every other year between the ages of 5 and 10. Vision screenings occur in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. For each of these screenings, you will be notified if there are any concerns from the Health Department.

Acadience (Formerly DIBELS Next) is a set of curriculum-based measures for reading that assesses a student's development as a reader. Each assessment is designed for a specific grade level ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade and measures critical reading skills.

School Wide Information System (SWIS) SWIS is a data system that helps us to keep track of any office discipline referrals that are completed throughout the year. By analyzing where, when, by whom, and how often discipline referrals are occurring, we are better able to target problem areas and be proactive in our approach to supporting all students, often re-teaching behavioral expectations in specific locations or times of day/year where we notice spikes in referrals. By using this data system, we can see if our efforts result in student progress.

Student Risk Screening Scale (SRSS) is a brief assessment completed by teachers in an effort to screen for social, emotional and behavioral concerns. The assessment is designed to be used in a proactive manner to provide students more support before problems escalate. School climate surveys are given to students to gauge attitudes towards school.

Early Warning Indicators (EWI) are data points that school staff use to determine which students are at-risk of dropping out or becoming less engaged in school. Attendance, behavior and course proficiency data for all students in grades 6 through 12 are reviewed by school leadership three times per year to identify students who may need more support to stay engaged in school.

Should any students be identified as needing additional support, our school uses a proactive approach to match supports to a student's need. Parents are informed of any extra assistance the student is receiving, as well as progress made as a result of our efforts. We find that using a combination of parent input, teacher input and data for problem solving results in the best gains for our students.

TRUANCY

A parent or other person in parental relation who fails to comply with the Michigan Compulsory School Law is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$50.00, or imprisonment for not less than 2 nor more than 90 days, or both.

VIDEO MONITORING SYSTEMS

A video monitoring system may be used on school busses and a video monitoring system may be used in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors, and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on videotape, that recording may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal conduct is recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Houghton Elementary School does not approve of the use of or offer virtual learning options to students in kindergarten – 5^{th} Grade. We do reserve the right to allow a virtual learning offer if extenuating circumstances apply and we deem it in the best interest of the student.

VISITORS

We would like to indicate that parents are always welcome to visit the school. Please make an appointment through child's teacher or with the office. When you do visit, please make your presence immediately known by stopping in at the office. Children will not be allowed to bring visiting friends or relatives to school because it creates unnecessary interruptions. If you would like to eat lunch with your child you must have prior approval from the principal and we limit this to once per quarter during the school year.

VOLUNTEERS

The district encourages volunteerism in the schools. A very positive benefit, when working with students, is the relationship developed between the volunteer and student. We take seriously the relationships that are formed. For this reason and to safeguard our students, your signature on the Volunteer/Chaperone form assures us that you understand and agree to our building policies. Failure to abide by our policy will result in exclusion from supervisory school activities. A volunteer form is available in the school office.

WEAPONS LAW

Every parent must be alerted to the legislation that went into effect on January 1st, 1995, which prohibits anyone from bringing a weapon onto school property. An elementary student will be expelled for a minimum of 90 days (high school is 180 days) if they are caught with a weapon at school. A weapon is clearly defined to include guns as well as knives with a blade of 3 inches or longer. Every family must be aware of these very strong consequences.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL SERVICES ART CLASS

Art is offered to students in kindergarten through fifth grades. The art classes meet once a week and are an extension of the regular educational program. The art program provides a variety of experiences to build a lifelong foundation for expressing and appreciating ideas, concepts, and creativity. Visual and aesthetic perceptual abilities are developed.

COMPUTER LAB

The elementary school is equipped with a 30 station, (IBM platform) and 30 Chromebooks, (Google Drive) platform computer lab and is staffed by a certified teacher. In order to maximize the use of technology throughout the curriculum, computer classes are designed so that the classroom teacher may use the computers for projects as well. Students will develop specific technology skills that will enhance classroom curriculum. Keyboarding skills are taught in grades three, four, and five.

LIBRARY

Houghton Elementary School has an outstanding library that is maintained by a full-time librarian with assistance from volunteers. Library books must be properly cared for and returned on time. Students are responsible for all books checked out in their name and will be charged for lost or damaged books. Please help your child remember to return books on "library day."

MUSIC CLASS

Students at Houghton Elementary School are scheduled weekly for music class. The musical experience they receive will help the children to learn, understand, and hopefully, enjoy music. The music program supports and enhances the children's regular classroom lessons. A "Winter Program" is presented each year for the community.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education class is a weekly experience for the students as Houghton Elementary School. It is an integral part of the elementary curriculum. Students

should dress appropriately on the days they are scheduled to attend gym class. <u>Tennis shoes are required</u>. Sometimes, after a serious illness, a parent may wish to have their child excused from recess and/or physical education. Please send a note with that information to the teacher. After a severe illness or injury, a doctor's note is required to return to gym class activity.

ACCELERATED MATH CURRICULUMS

Houghton Elementary School believes that students should be given the opportunity to develop at their own ability level to the degree possible within the school setting. Providing opportunities for differentiation is one method of accommodating this goal. Math is one area where students can be accelerated by skipping grade levels. We allow this opportunity in grades $3^{rd} - 5^{th}$. We believe the early grade levels are foundational to math and should not be skipped, but students challenged in their classrooms by teachers. Students are identified for possible acceleration by teacher recommendation based on standardized test scores, local classroom assessments, observation and parent input in March of each year. Students will be tested at the end of May; students may not retake this assessment for the same grade level. Skipping a grade level in math will be determined on the following criteria:

- 93% or better on the designated placement test
- Mastery of basic facts
- Parental consent
- Teacher input/recommendation
- Ability to work independently

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Students may be referred for a special education evaluation by parents, school staff or other professionals. A comprehensive evaluation is then conducted by a multidisciplinary team, which makes a recommendation regarding eligibility. An individualized educational plan (IEP) meeting is held to determine eligibility and appropriate programs and services. If a student is eligible for services, the IEPC will develop the student's individualized educational program.

District 504/ ADA Compliance Officers

Julie Filpus

1603 Gundlach Road

Houghton, MI 49931

ifilpus@houghton.k12.mi.us

906-482-0456

TITLE I

Title I is a federally funded program aimed at assisting students who are failing to meet (or are at increased risk of failing to meet) curriculum standards. At Houghton Elementary School, Title I assistance is in the form of a teacher or paraprofessional at each of the grade levels kindergarten through fifth. Title I also supports a before school learning lab for students in grades K-5 as well as a three week summer

program for recommended students when funding permits. While teachers refer students, examinations of student work and test scores are also used to determine participation. All students may occasionally receive help from the classroom teacher aide.

NONDISCRIMINATION ACT

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT OF 1972 TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT OF 1990 SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975.

Section 1

Any person believing that the Houghton-Portage Township School District or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (4) Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and (5) Age Discrimination Act of 1975, may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as grievance, to the local Civil Rights Coordinator at the following address:

Mrs. Sara Marcotte or Ms. Julie Filpus
Houghton High School
1603 Gundlach Road
Houghton, MI 49931
smarcotte@houghton.k12.mi.us or jfilpus@houghton.k12.mi.us
906-482-0450

Section II

The person who believes a valid basis for grievance exists shall discuss the grievance informally and on a verbal basis with the local Civil Rights Coordinator, who shall in turn investigate the complaint and reply with an answer to the complainant within (5) business days. The complainant may initiate formal procedures according to the following steps.

Step 1

A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the Local Civil Rights Coordinator within (5) business days of the receipt of answers to the informal complaint. The coordinator shall further investigate the matters of grievance and reply in writing to the complainant within (5) days.

Step 2

A complaint wishing to appeal the decision of the Local Civil Rights Coordinator may submit a signed statement of appeal to the Superintendent of Schools within (5) business days after the receipt of the Coordinator's response. The superintendent shall meet with all parties involved, formulate a conclusion, and respond in writing to the complainant within (10) business days.

Step 3

If unsatisfied, the complainant may appeal through a signed, written statement to the Board of Education within (5) business days of receiving the superintendent's response in Step 2. In attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within (40) days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within (10) days of this meeting.

Step (4)

If at this point the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled, further appeal may be made to the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202.

Inquiries concerning the nondiscriminatory policy may be directed to Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington D.C. 20202. The local coordinator, on request, will provide a copy of the district's grievance procedure and investigate all complaints in accordance with this procedure. A copy of each of the Acts and the regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the Civil Rights Coordinator's office.

The Houghton-Portage Township School District Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Questions or concerns regarding the non-discrimination civil rights policies should be directed to Mrs. Sara Marcotte or Ms. Julie Filpus, Houghton-Portage Township School District, 1603 Gundlach Road, Houghton, MI 49931 (906) 482-0450.

CONSIDERATIONS DURING COVID-19

Traditional seated courses may also be held virtually. Students requesting a fully virtual course option must indicate interest during the scheduling window and stay in the class for a semester at a time. All virtual courses have two-way communication requirements and students must respond to teacher and/or mentor initiated communications

Students may need to attend via web conferencing for a period of time due to health concerns or other issues. Students will need to log into the classes by the beginning of the period and must attend for the entire period or be marked absent or tardy. All parents who have students in a classroom where this option is utilized will be notified. Parents can request that their students be moved to avoid appearing on camera.

Face coverings will be required at certain times and this will change based on age, area, activity and phase. Students need to have to have doctor sign off that they are not wearing a face covering for a medical reason if needed.