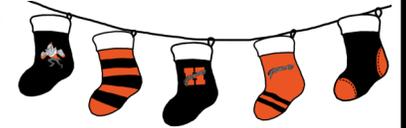




# HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DECEMBER 2020

Volume 8, Issue 5

Houghton-Portage Township Schools



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

## Keeping Momentum over Break

With the pauses in school last spring and the two weeks of virtual learning in October, it is critical that we keep momentum with academic progress when we return in January. I am asking that families make reading and math a part of the daily routine over

break. Even 30–45 minutes a day will help keep students sharp and progressing.

Teachers will be sending some ways to engage your child that they are familiar with and can access at home. Our students and staff have



been working very hard to make sure we maximize our time. Thank you for your support and commitment to help keep this going.

## Upcoming Events

- November 30- December 13 – Gremlin Holiday Shop
- December 1<sup>st</sup> – Giving Tuesday: Select HES PTO when shopping [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
- December 18<sup>th</sup>— Last Day for Students
- January 4<sup>th</sup>— Classes Resume
- January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>— Students Dismissed at 12:20

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



## Holiday Concert Postponed

Due to restrictions on gathering size and our schedule changing to have one Essential class a week, we will be postponing our holiday concert that typically runs in the 2nd week of December. We are hoping to have a school wide spring concert and give students and families a chance at a concert.



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



## 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:** Logan Girard

**K:** Anna Narwold, Emery Wiantanen, Ansel Lautala, Jayce Boven & Aidan Trathen

**1st :** Miika Haataja, Luke Rubich, Joshua Stranc, Jayna Park & Ivy Markham

**2nd:** Valen Juntunen, Max Pietila, Kaari Tormala & Miya Xue

**3rd:** Iliana Tembreull, Cooper Aho, Tyler Rule, Jacey Zhou & Ty Evans

**4th:** Eleanor Barnett, Adlar Bey-

er, Kayleigh Dart, Annabel La-Cosse & Brayden Krumm

**5th:** Mannie Trewartha, Lanie Juntikka, Violet LaReaux, Wesley Mattila & Kameron Johnson

**Congratulations!!!**

### TEAM Students



## 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!



Every day in school matters.

## 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

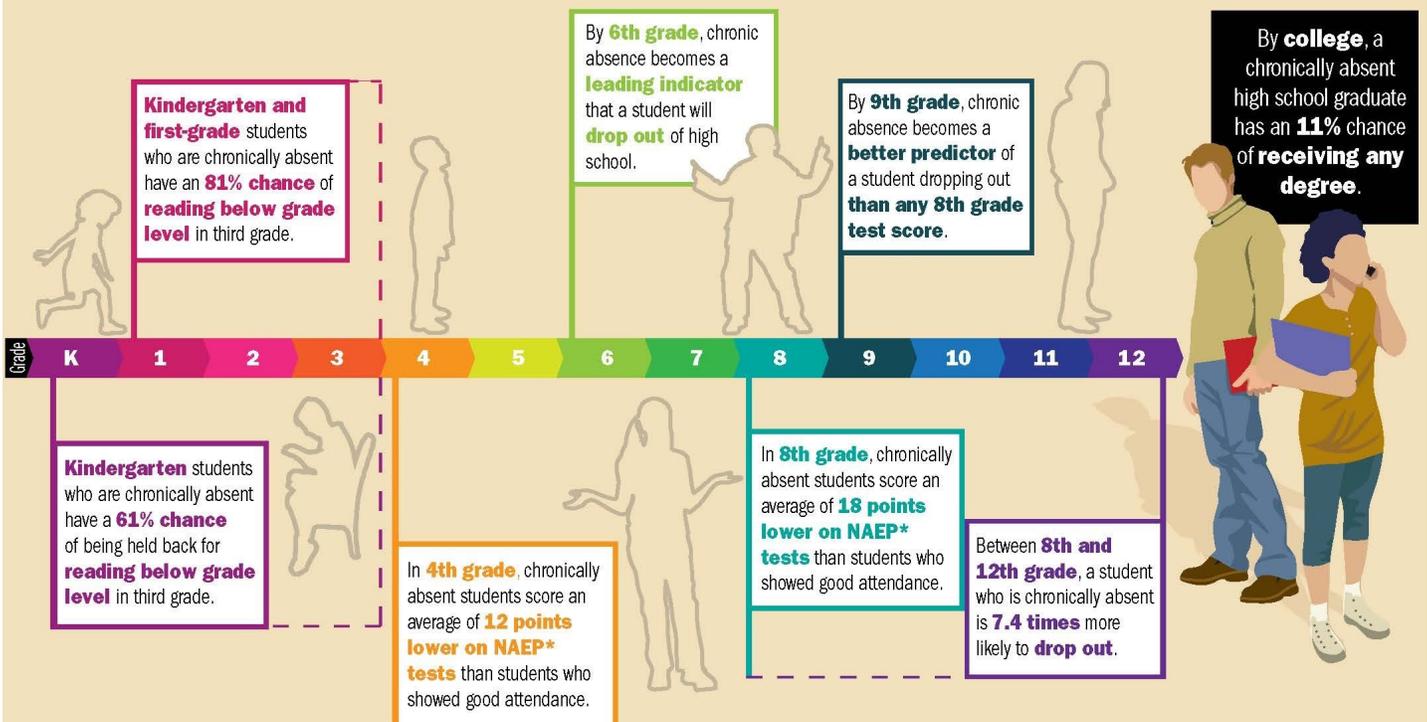
There are an estimated 5–7.5 million students in the United States who are chronically absent from school.

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 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 for all students this year 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.

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](http://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, audiotape, 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](mailto: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®

Houghton Elementary School  
203 W. Jacker Avenue  
Houghton MI 49931



Phone: 906-482-0456 Ext. 3000  
Fax: 906-487-5941  
Principal—Anders Hill  
ahill@hpts.us

www.hpts.us

Thank you Mr. Wheeler for the donation of "Chippy" to the playground!



**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:

The **Gremlin Holiday Shop** launches **November 30**. Shop safely online for great gifts (pom hats, water bottles, decals, tote bags, blankets, and more). Orders may be picked up or sent home with students the week before Winter Break.

**December 1<sup>st</sup> is Giving Tuesday**. Please choose **Houghton Elementary School PTO** as your designated charity when you shop [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

Take the guesswork out of gift shopping – we will share **Teacher & Staff "Favorite Things"** via List Serve and on FB.

We earned over **\$800 Scholastic Dollars** from the Book-Fair to be reinvested in the school.

### PTO Thanks:

**Baby E's** will donate \$200 from the October Give Back.

**Econo Foods** donated a \$50 Gift Card which was used to buy sandwiches for staff during P/T conferences.

Thanks to **HES families** for your Giving Tree and Book Fair Wish List classroom contributions.

**Get Involved: Key Leadership roles on the PTO Board remain vacant.** The PTO Executive Board for the 20/21 School Year is still in need of a President or Co-Presidents and a Vice-President. Contact Nancy Verive at [nn\\_verive@yahoo.com](mailto:nn_verive@yahoo.com) to learn more.

### Coming Up:

**Gremlin Holiday Shop 11/30-12/13**

**PTO Meeting Tuesday, January 19 at 5:30 p.m. via Google Meet** (no December meeting)

### Information & Updates:

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



## GREMLIN HOLIDAY SHOP

Support  
Houghton Elementary  
School PTO.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

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

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