



Houghton Elementary School January 2021



Volume 8 Issue 5

Doreen Kramer- Superintendent
Anders Hill - Principal



KEEP
CALM
AND
SET YOUR
GOALS

Upcoming Events:

- **January 4th**—
School Re-
sumes
- **January 21st**—
Students Dis-
missed at 12:20
pm
- **January 22nd**—
Students Dis-
missed at 12:20
pm
- **February 19th**—
Professional
Development
Day— No School



The Hard Thing Rule— Kids Who Don't Quit

The best indicator of success in life is not talent or test scores. The best indicator falls under a term often referred to as "grit." Grit is resilience, stick-to-it-iveness and pushing past quitting points. Angela Duckworth's brief definition of grit is simply: "Perseverance and passion for long term goals."

As an educator or parent you might be thinking, "ok, I get it. I want to help my children/students build grit, but how do I do it?" The Hard Thing Rule is one way. The hard thing rule is a rule that Duckworth has created for her own family. It has three parts.

Everybody in the family, including mom and dad have to do a hard thing, something that requires practice so that you can get better, gradually over time.

You have to finish what you begin. If you begin the hockey season, you have to finish the hockey season. If mom pays for piano classes, you have to finish the classes. After you have finished you can choose a new hard thing.

The third part of the hard thing rule preserves the child's autonomy. This means that nobody gets to pick your hard thing but you. Yes, you have to practice. Yes, you have to finish what you began, but the individual is in charge of picking what their hard thing is.

Duckworth says, "something that requires practice, something where you're going to get feedback telling you how you can get better, and you're going to get right back in there and try again and again." Duckworth mentions that even when her children were 5 and 6 years old they were given some choice as to what their hard thing was. It is important for children to know that they are ultimately the captain of their own ship. It is

better to learn this young than to need mom to call your college professor because of a poor grade or dad send a message to their high school coach because they lack the ability to do it themselves.

Duckworth notes that her younger daughter went through about six hard things, until she finally settled on playing the viola. So far, she's kept at it for three years.

The point is for parents to help their kids find something they're interested in and then help grow that interest, while at the same time modeling grit and showing how far it can take you. It needs to be something that is intrinsically motivating for the child, something that they are passionate about. When a young person learns to combine their passion with perseverance over life's ups and downs, they will have truly learned something valuable.

To make the hard thing rule work in your house you do not have to be perfect. However, there is one mistake you cannot make. You cannot do it for them. Doing it for them does not teach kids to persevere. It teaches kids to quit when things get tough, because someone will rescue them.

This year, make the hard thing rule a daily conversation in your house and help raise children who won't quit.

Ted Talk Grit

-Micah
Stipech

GRIT.



Kindergarten Registration

Houghton Portage Township Schools will begin registering kindergarten-aged children for the 2021-2022 school year in March. Children who will be five years of age by September 1st, 2021, are eligible to enter kindergarten or Young 5's. You can apply for a waiver if your child will be 5 by December 1st, 2021 to enter kindergarten or

Young 5's early. Please call Houghton Elementary School at 482-0456 ext. 3000 with questions. Children **currently attending Young 5's** are automatically registered for kindergarten.

Please pass on this information to any parents you know with kindergarten age children.



Preparing for Winter Weather— Cancellations and Delays

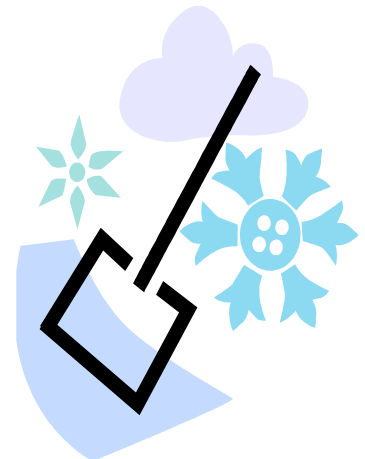
When inclement weather causes the closing of school, the following procedures will be followed:

School Closing: Announcements will be made via the Parent Listserv, the school website, the television station (TV 6) and local radio stations by 7:00 a.m. that school will not be in session.

Late Starts: When weather conditions warrant, the start of school may be delayed. Such an announcement will be made as soon as possible. Buses will run

two hours late.

Early Dismissal: Our office will be notified of early dismissals due to bad weather as early as possible. Dismissal time from classes and bus schedules to transport children will be determined by the Superintendent. Parents, please review your plan with your student and please contact the office ASAP if your initial plans have changed.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**EVERY
MINUTE
IN SCHOOL
MATTERS**

Two missed days a month adds up to being a half a year behind by the time your child reaches 4th grade.

And once a child falls behind, they rarely catch up.

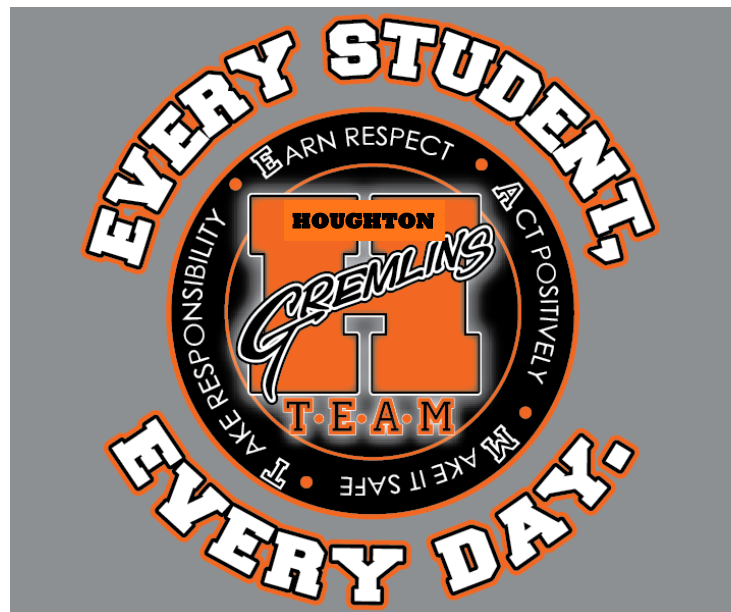
ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



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December 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 December honorees are:

Young 5's: Ryan Johnson

K: Marshall Hohnholt, Lilliana Zimmerman, Kiefer Mechlin, Ivy Juntunen & Thomas Brueggeman

1st : Rachel Dowden, Nyssa Kelly, Alex Seppala, Aubrey Bukovich, Eva Bradfish and Gabe Brueggeman

2nd: Josie Haataja, Emma Girard, Olavi Lautala & Caleb Young

3rd: Marlena King, Zoey Spruce, Gavin Massaway, Mackenzie Solka & Vance Joyal

4th: Allison Damsteegt, Abby Bastain, Kendyll Griffith, Fareedah Shittu, Thomas LaTendresse & Jaxtin Turunen

5th: Rylan Lahti, Ella Seppala, Drew Lamma, Alia Asti & Jaycie Wiitanen

Congratulations!!!

