



March 2021 Houghton Elementary School

Houghton-Portage Township Schools

Doreen Kramer, Superintendent
Anders Hill, Principal

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March is Reading Month

This month Houghton Elementary School will celebrate Reading Month with the theme, "Camp Out With a Good Book!"

Again this year, students will be encouraged to keep track of their reading at home. Each week in March students will receive a reading log that will be turned in on Wednesdays. We will have a school-wide reading goal with a celebration on Friday, March 26th 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 Tuesdays. 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.

A story walk will be set up in the school forest and will feature the book *North Woods Girl* by Aimee Bissonette. This will be open for families to explore on their own. This is a great opportunity to spend time with your child while participating in

fun reading activities and enjoying the great outdoors.

Be on the lookout for a letter and calendar of activities that will be sent home with your child.

Happy Reading!!

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

Camp Out

with a good book!



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 12th**—PD Day— No School
- **March 14th**— Daylight Savings Time
- **March 16th**— PTO Meeting
- **March 18th**— 21-22 Kindergarten Parent Night @ 6 pm
- **March 26th**— 3rd Marking Period Ends
- **March 29th**— **April 5th**— Spring Break No School
- **April 6th**— School Resumes

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.

You Support PTO. PTO Supports Our School.

Shop & Support PTO: The **GREMLIN MERCH MADNESS SALE** featuring new Youth apparel launches in March. Shop online for **NEW STYLES** of Youth hooded sweatshirts and long and short-sleeved shirts. You'll also find **CRAZY DIS-COUNTS** on some of our existing overstock merchandise. Orders may be picked up or sent home with students after Spring Break.

Watch for the MERCH MADNESS SALE announcements via Facebook and List Serve!

Choose **Houghton Elementary School PTO** as your designated charity when you shop smile.amazon.com.

PTO Thanks: We appreciate **everyone** that ordered Little Caesars Pizza Kits. We raised **\$1,104!**

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. **Board Elections for the 21/22 School Year** will take place during the April 20 Virtual Meeting. Contact Nancy Verive at nn_verive@yahoo.com to learn more.

Coming Up:

Merch Madness Sale during March

PTO Meeting Tuesday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m. via Google Meet

Thirty-One Gifts Give Back Sale begins April 7

Information & Updates:

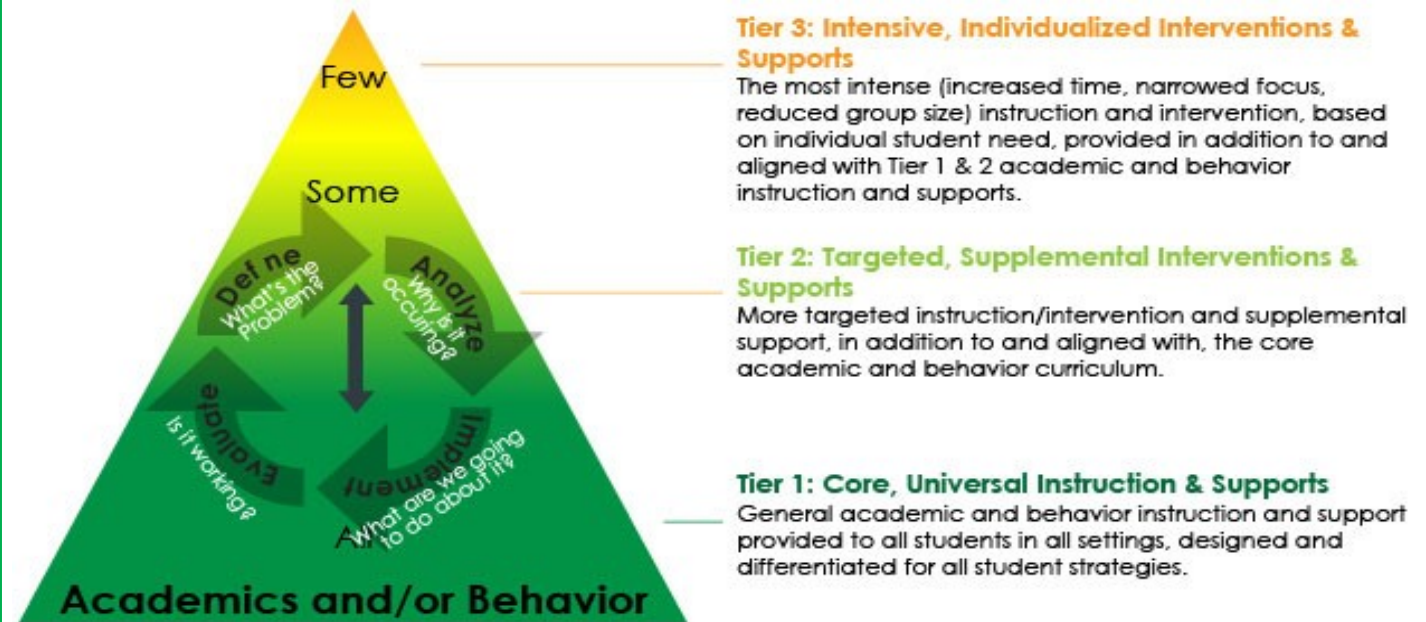
Like PTO on Facebook: [facebook.com/HPTSPTO](https://www.facebook.com/HPTSPTO)



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.



Data Celebrations:

78% of our students school wide were at benchmark for their composite Acadience reading score.

We also have less than 15% of our students scoring in Tier 2, which is our school wide goal.




Major behavior referrals are down from previous years. We are continuing to attribute that to smaller recess sizes and PBIS classroom expectations being taught and reinforced.

Goal:

Acadience goal for spring 2021 is to have 82% of students scoring at or above benchmark on reading assessments.






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
1,800,000 words	282,000 words	8,000 words
		
90 th percentile	50 th percentile	10 th percentile

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.
<p>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.</p> <small>(Nagy and Herman, 1987)</small>		
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.



Dropping Off Students at School

Parents please remember that students should be dropped off at the upper parking lot or roundabout in the morning. Also, please remember to park in the parking lot if you are coming into the school. Vehicles should not be left unattended along the sidewalk, and please slow down in the parking lot. Also, please wear a mask if standing in a group and not able to stay distanced.



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?

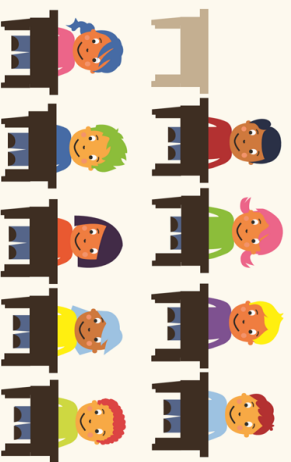


Who is affected

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



2.5 in 10

low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



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 2021-22

Houghton Portage Township Schools has begun registering kindergarten-aged children for the 2021-2022 school year. We will be holding an informational night on Thursday, March 18 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, 2021, 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: Everett Paulson

K: Luke Xi, Morgan Lubinski, Huntley Linn, Cameron Woodford & Pranathi Miganakallu

1st : Anja Chopp, Sebastian Fiss, Violet Kilpela, Ruth Shannon, Eero Maki & Chloe Gasperich

2nd: Eli Heider, Abby Techtmann, Jane Filpus & Reese Lahti

3rd: Sidney Kelly, Silas Bergstrom, Josie Roth, Wyatt Luskin & Daniel Gray

4th: Sophia Wu, Jackson Henkel, Eli Garnell, Margot Ryyanen, Jordan Statler & Mary Belle Chosa

5th: Mason Spruce, Brandon Kiley, Maija Mechlin, Tristan Wolfe & Bryton Berstrom

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

www.hpts.us



Jump Rope for Heart

This year our school will continue our support of the American Heart Association (AHA) program Jump Rope for Heart, which has been renamed the Kids Heart Challenge (KHC). For the past 9 years, our school community has helped fundraise over \$130,000 for the AHA and our students and parents/guardians are to be commended for supporting this program.



Due to Covid-19 this year the program will be all online. [Kids Heart Challenge - Houghton Elementary](#)

As in the past students can receive KHC thank-you gifts for fundraising and also earn school thank-you gifts. This year our school thank-you gifts are as follows:

- #1 - If a student fund-raises \$100 they will get to "Pie" Mr. Lawson or Principal Hill in the face!
- #2 - If a student fund-raises \$200 they will get to silly string a Teacher or Mr. Lawson or Mr. Hill!
- #3 - If our school fund-raises more than our school goal of \$5,000, Mr. Lawson and Principal Hill will get matching Orange and Black mohawks!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!
Mr. Lawson



SPRING BREAK

Houghton-Portage Township Schools will be closed for Spring Break from March 29th through April 5th. Classes will resume for all students on Tuesday April 6th.