

# April 2021 Houghton Elementary

Houghton-Portage Township Public Schools



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Doreen Kramer, Superintendent  
Anders Hill, Principal

## M-Step Testing



In June 2014, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) started to develop a new test, the new assessment system will be called the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP. This has replaced the MEAP tests our students traditionally completed in the fall.

The M-STEP will be our schools summative assessments designed to measure student growth. English language arts and mathematics will be assessed in grades 3–5, science and social studies in grade 5. This test will be taken on-line, utilizing our Chromebooks and computer lab. Our 5th grade students will begin

testing on April 12th, our 3rd and 4th grade on May 3rd. The testing windows are three weeks long. Students will not be testing everyday, and tests in each area will take about one hour. Please make sure your child attends regularly during testing windows. We will run make-up sessions for students who are absent. We are excited to show the great progress we have made in the past year. **Please encourage your child to give their best effort!**

### Upcoming Events

- **March 29<sup>th</sup> — April 5<sup>th</sup> —**  
Spring Break
- **April 6<sup>th</sup> —**  
School Resumes
- **April 7<sup>th</sup> —** Thirty-One PTO Give Back Sale
- **April 20<sup>th</sup> —** Virtual Monthly PTO Meeting
- **April 22<sup>nd</sup> —** Bids for Kids Online PTO Auction

## GROWTH MINDSET-

### What should we be teaching students to say?



Instead of...	Try thinking...
I'm not good at this.	What am I missing?
I'm awesome at this.	I'm on the right track because I've worked hard and practiced.
I give up.	I'll use some of the strategies we've learned.
This is too hard.	This may take some time and effort.
I made a mistake.	Mistakes help me learn better.

# March 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**

Our March honorees are:

**Young 5's:** Jaxon Cappo

**K:** Emmalyn Sutinen, Preston Hill, Greta Munoz Tefft, Kinoka Minakata & Sofia Reynoso

**1st :** Lucia Petersen, Jax Karvako, Drea Durocher, Isla Abbotts & Aamira Sundstrom

**2nd:** Roslyn Poyhonen, Maaria Mack, Crosby Repp & Maryam Shittu

**3rd:** Rory DePue, Case DeYoung, Sophie Cyr, Liira Klein & Ava Gasperich

**4th:** Thea Johnson, Connor Geiger, Mary Gray, Amelia Chopp & Ariana Mace

**5th:** Annika Henquinet, Isabella Hassell, Tate Evans, Leah LeClaire & Everett Matteson

**Congratulations!**



## Counselor's Corner

Micah Stiepech

Please help us help kids by leaving toys and trinkets at home.

The school day is full of distractions for children. Classrooms are busy, everyday there is so much to accomplish. Children move from one task to another, from one subject to the next, to recess, to lunch and specials classes.

As spring days get warmer it can be even more difficult for kids to stay on task. One thing we can control is not allowing our children to bring things to school that will be a distraction to themselves and others. Often students come in with action figures, toys, trinkets, money and all sorts of things that create a big distraction for students. When students are unable to put these things away it often results in struggles and meltdowns. Please help us help kids by leaving it at home.

We would like to thank all the families for their support of Reading Month!  
**Keep Reading!**



## Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022

Houghton Portage Township Schools has begun registering kindergarten-aged children for the 2021-2022 school year. Children who will be five years of age by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, are eligible to enter kindergarten or

Young 5's. Please call Houghton Elementary School at 482-0456 ext. 3040 to register. Children currently attending Young 5's are automatically registered for kindergarten.



95%	=	<b>47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	<b>95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	<b>142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	<b>190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

**BE SMART BE THERE!**

**ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW**

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



**ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**  
read well by the end of third grade

**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**  
pass important courses

**HIGH SCHOOLERS**  
stay on track for graduation

**COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
earn their degrees

**WORKERS**  
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.





Houghton Elementary  
School  
203 W. Jacker Avenue  
Houghton MI 49931



## Spring Weather

Please watch the weather and have your child wear boots to school if we have rain or snow. Our playground will get very muddy. Also, please continue to send coats, snow pants (if we have snow on the ground), hats and gloves. April weather is very unpredictable and we hope to keep students warm and comfortable on the playground.

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



## PTO Corner

### You Support PTO. PTO Supports Our School.

**Shop & Support PTO:** **Thirty-One Gifts** will be donating 25% of all sales during an upcoming promotion running Wednesday, April 7 through Saturday, April 17. A special link will be shared. Orders will be ready in time for Mother's Day!



Mark your calendars for the launch of the **Bids for Kids Online Auction** to fund playground improvements. **Online Bidding opens on Thursday, April 22 at 8am and will close on Wednesday, April 28 at 10pm.** There will be something for everyone! An American Girl Doll, interior or exterior auto detail job, and an autographed Detroit Redwings puck are just a few of the exciting items up for bid. More details to come soon!

**PTO Supports our School:** We love the HES Staff! Check out PTO's separate feature to learn how your family can participate in May's **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week May 3-7.**

**Get Involved: 21/22 PTO Board Elections are during the April 20 Virtual Meeting.** Contact Nancy Verive at [nn\\_verive@yahoo.com](mailto:nn_verive@yahoo.com) to learn more.

#### Coming Up:

**Thirty-One Gifts Give Back Sale** begins Wednesday, April 7  
**PTO Meeting** Tuesday, April 20 at 5:30 p.m. via Google Meet  
**Bids for Kids Online Auction** April 22-28

#### Information & Updates:

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

**BIDS FOR KIDS:**  
AN ONLINE AUCTION TO FUND  
PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS



APRIL 22-28

