



HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DECEMBER 2017

Houghton-Portage Township Schools

Volume 5, Issue 5

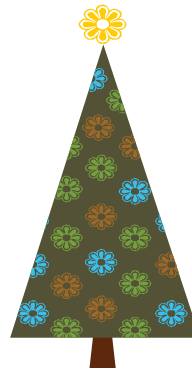
Mrs. Doreen Klingbeil— Superintendent
Mr. Anders Hill— Principal

Houghton Elementary Winter Concert

Houghton Elementary School's Holiday concert will be on Thursday, December 14th. To accommodate all of our families and friends, we will hold this program at two different times again this year. We will have a 9:30 am and a 1:30 pm show in the elementary school gym.

We ask that families with students who have last names A—L attend the 9:30 am show and last names M—Z attend the 1:30 pm show. We understand you may need to shift to accommodate schedules, but ask if you can, please follow these guidelines.

We also ask that you carpool with family or friends as we accommodate the large amount of traffic.



Upcoming Events

- December 14th— Houghton Elementary Winter Concert Last Names A- L 9:30 am, Last Names M—Z 1:30 pm
- December 19th— Breakfast with Santa
- December 20th— Last Day for Students
- January 2nd— Classes Resume
- January 18th & 19th—2nd Marking Period Ends, Students Dismissed at 12:20 Both Days

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



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



Streaming our Holiday Concert

For parents and grandparents who are unable to make it to the Holiday Concert to watch, we will be streaming the concert on YouTube during the 9:30 am performance on Thursday, December 14th. We will send out a link via the Parent List Serv a few days before the concert that you can share with family.



Breakfast with Santa

On Tuesday, December 19th from 7:30–8:15 am, students can have breakfast with Santa in the elementary cafeteria.



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: Cecelia Jurmu

K: Yixuan Ada Huang, Emmett Hainault, Cooper Aho, Matthew Radigan & Natalia Werner

1st : Sophia Lawson, Henry Butler, Garek Guilbault, Roger Blakley & Jensie Kuzmic

2nd: Ella McLeod, Mannie Trewartha, Russell Trewartha & Jillian Isaacson

3rd: Rylan Guilbault, Porter Markham, Julia Qi, Mason Joyal & Maisa Jussila

4th: Aspen Stoll-Pietila, Anika Mechlin, Annie Halonen & Rylie Ekins

5th: Ruebyn Mensah, Jack Rudak, Reagan Moyle & Marjorie Miller

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!

Please check out the bulletin board in the main office. We will be tracking grade levels attendance rates with percent of students who were chronically absent or tardy in the month. This is usually 3 absences or tardies in the month. We want to encourage all families to have students in school on time. We know this will make a big difference!



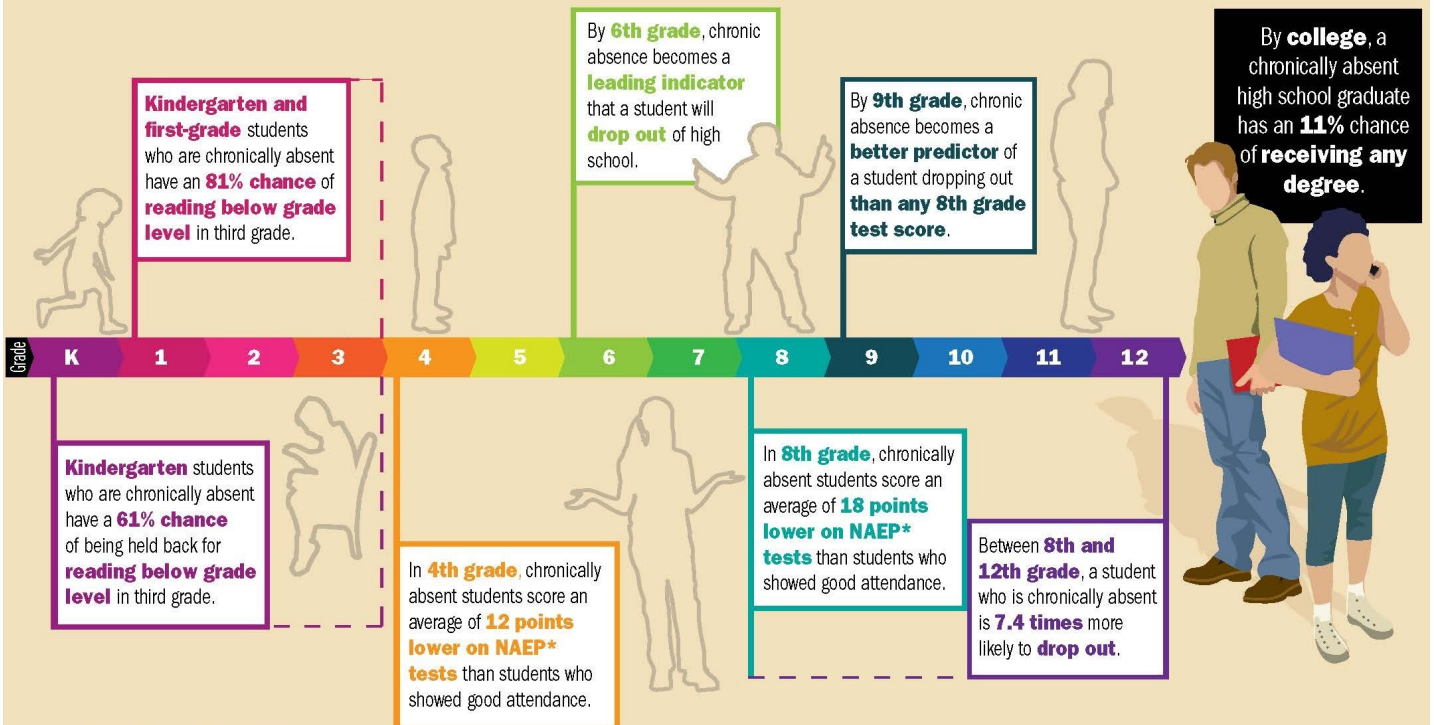
Did You Know?
 A student is chronically absent if he or she misses as few as **two days** of school a month.
2 DAYS PER MONTH x 9 MONTHS = CHRONIC ABSENCE

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 in the Cafeteria 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 option 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. The cost for Breakfast in the Classroom is the same as the cost for the breakfast in the cafeteria.



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 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.

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.

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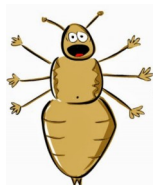
Every year head lice seems to make an appearance at each elementary school. In accordance with our school policy if we suspect a child has head lice, we will check them. If confirmed, they will need to be out of school until they receive a treatment and are nit (lice egg) free. Below are some links to some good information on lice:

The National Association of School Nurses:

https://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/HFLL_101_parents_2015.pdf

Michigan Department of Education:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Final_Michigan_Head_Lice_Manual_103750_7.pdf



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Have a happy, safe, and joyful holidays from all the staff at Houghton Elementary School!



PTO Corner



PTO's Mission: Houghton-Portage Township Elementary School PTO (HES PTO) is organized solely for the purpose of enhancing our children's education through fundraising, and the collaborative efforts of parents, teachers, and administration.

PTO Thanks! Thanks to all students, families, teachers, staff, and volunteers who helped make our Book Fair a successful event, raising more than \$2,900 for PTO. Special shout out to Karyn Rudak and Amber Van Karsen for chairing the weeklong event and Margaret Lansparger for coordinating volunteers. Thanks to HES families who supported our 31 Gifts fundraiser hosted by Jessica Lawson. Jessica donated more than \$100 back to PTO.

Thursday, November 30—Last day to order Spirit Wear from PTO. Be sure to order your Gremlins Spirit Wear by Thursday, November 30. New items include a baseball t-shirt, coffee cup, fleece headband, and more!

PTO Dates to remember: Joey's Seafood and Grill Night—**Tuesday, December 5** from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eat at Joey's (dine in or take out) and mention PTO and 25% of sales will go back to PTO.

Track Friday Free Family Fitness Event—**Friday, January 12** Stay tuned for details!

PTO Meeting **Tuesday, January 16** at 5:30 p.m. Inside the school library

Want to get more PTO updates?

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



The Houghton Elementary student council is collecting non-perishable food items for the TV6 Canathon. All donations need to be made by December 6th. Since the event began in 1982, the people of Upper Michigan have donated over 3.44 million pounds of food to their local food pantries.