



March 2018

Houghton Elementary School

Houghton-Portage Township Schools

Doreen Klingbeil, Superintendent
Anders Hill, Principal

Volume 5, Issue 7

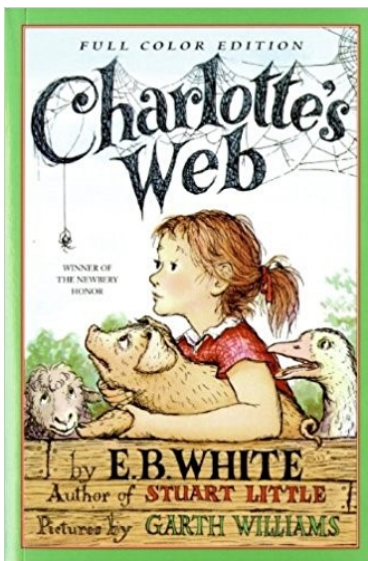
March is Reading Month

This month Houghton Elementary School will embark on an exciting project, a school-wide book club called One School, One Book. Every classroom in our school will participate. Every family will receive a copy of the same book. You will be asked to read it to your child/ren at home over the month of March. We are asking you to make the time for this special activity.

Again this year students will earn double minutes for going "Unplugged" on Tuesdays. If students use no electronics, including TV, iPads, and video games on Tuesdays, they will double the reading minutes that they record on their reading logs. Our school-wide goal is 500,000 minutes this year, and only minutes spent reading at home will be counted. If every student reads for about 30 minutes daily, we will reach our goal!

Tuesday March 13 will be a special day at Houghton Elementary. The Science Fair will be held from 4-6 p.m. and Reading

Night will be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Students will be encouraged to attend and enjoy a variety of reading related activities. **Thank you for encouraging your child to read, it does make a difference with their reading fluency!**



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 6th**— Family Science & Engineering Night 6—7:30 pm
- **March 7th**— PD, Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm
- **March 11th**— Daylight Savings Time
- **March 13th**—HES Science Fair—4th & 5th Grades 4:00—6:00 pm & Unplugged Family Reading Night 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- **March 15th**— 18-19 Kindergarten Parent Information Night 6 pm
- **March 23rd**— 3rd Marking Period Ends
- **March 26th— April 2nd**— Spring Break No School
- **April 3rd**— School Resumes
- **April 11th**— PD, Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm

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.



PTO Corner

PTO Gives!

PTO donated more than \$900 in support of One Book, One School (*Charolette's Web*).

PTO Thanks!

Thanks to Thrivent Financial—Ross Rinkinen for \$250 in seed money to support new fundraising initiatives.

Dates to Remember:

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, March 20, 5:30 p.m.

Inside the school library All families welcome

Save the date!

Friday, April 6

Family Dance Night fundraiser hosted by PTO

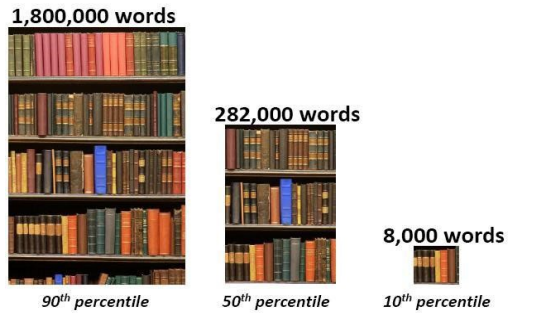
Want to get more PTO updates?

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



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



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.
If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6 th 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. <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.

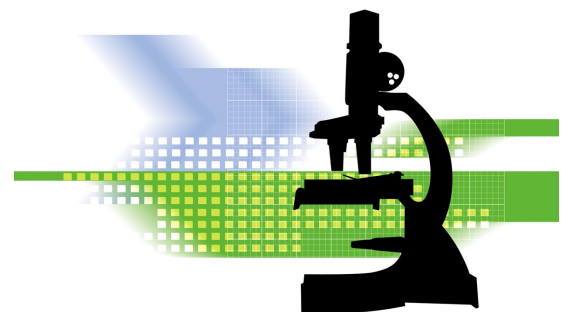
Reading alone

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.



Science Fair

Our annual Science Fair will be held on March 13th for all 4th and 5th grade students. Viewing will be from 4:00—6:00 pm.



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?

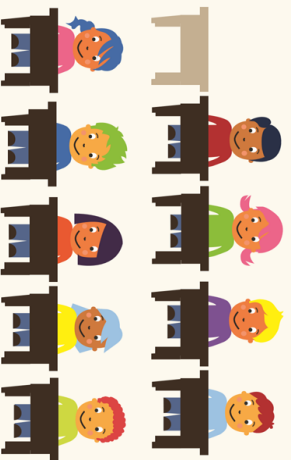


Who is affected

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 in 10 low-income kids

miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids

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?



of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)



of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)



of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)



of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

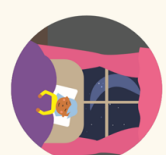
What families can do



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 2018-19

Houghton Portage Township Schools has begun registering kindergarten-aged children for the 2018-2019 school year. We will be holding an informational night on Thursday, March 15 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, 2018, 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: Reese Lahti

K: AnnaMae Nolan, Liam Merriman, Eli Bennett, Sophia Weeks & Romy Aldrich

1st : Dani Holly Johnson, Allison Damsteegt, Chloe Kampe, Amelia Chopp & Taylor Chase

2nd: Wesley Mattila, Myles Bastian, Annika Henquinet & Matthew Bennett

3rd: Eleanor Portfleet, Skye Isaacson, Ruby Zawada, Evan Lorenz & Serah Oommen

4th: Jack Cooke, Arobindo Ghosh, Luukas Mayer & Braden Morse

5th: Cheyenne Laplander, Serena Warren, Lenae Juntunen & Timothy Brown

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

Houghton Elementary
203 W. Jacker Avenue
Houghton MI 49931



Phone: 906-482-0456 Ext. 3000

Fax: 906-487-5941

Principal—Anders Hill

email: ahill@hpts.us

Twitter: [@AndersHill2](https://twitter.com/AndersHill2)



www.hpts.us

Congratulations to Eddie Zho for winning and Julia Jeon for coming in second place in the 5th grade Regional Spelling Bee! They will compete in the Upper Peninsula Spelling Bee Finals in March.



Jump Rope for Heart

The goal of Jump Rope For Heart is to help raise funds for the American Heart Association. Over the past seven years, our school community has raised over \$100,000 for this worthy cause. The American Heart Association has a Thank-You Gift program set up to encourage students with their fund raising efforts. In addition, our school has set up additional Thank-You Rewards for students to encourage them with their efforts:

(These rewards will take place at our Jump Rope For Heart assembly on Friday, March 16th)

- #1 - Fund raise \$50 and the students name will be entered into a drawing for a Amazon tablet!
- #2 - Fund raise \$100 and the student will get to throw water balloons at Mr. Hill or Mr. Lawson!
- #3 - Fund raise \$200 and the student will get to Silly String a Teacher!
- #4 - Our Top 10 fundraisers will get to pick one food item to put in a blender, and all 10 food items will be blended for Mr. Hill and Mr. Lawson to drink!
- #5 - If our school tops our Jump Rope For Heart fund raising total from last year of \$18,500, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Hill will get matching hair tattoos of the school Gremlin mascot!



SPRING BREAK

Houghton-Portage Township Schools will be closed for Spring Break from March 26th through April 2nd. Classes will resume for all students on Tuesday, April 3rd.