

Houghton-Portage

Township Schools

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023



Houghton Elementary Named 2023 National Blue Ribbon School

Only the 3rd UP School to Receive this Award
for Exemplary High-Performing Schools



Houghton High School Top 3% of All Schools in Michigan

#39 Rated High School in the State by US
New & World Report in 2023



2023 Extra Curricular Highlights:

Boys & Girls Cross Country- Conference
Champs

Hockey- Regional Champ & State
Semifinalist

Michigan Mr. Hockey Camden Markham

Girls Basketball- Regional Champs

Baseball- Conference Champs

Boys Golf- UP Champs

Robotics- State and National Qualifier

Business Professionals of America- National
Qualifiers, 6th & 8th Place at Nationals

High School Band & Choir- Earned All "1's"
at Regional Festival



Graduation 2023, Courtesy of Austin Jordan



Visit our Website

www.hpts.us

A cartoon gremlin mascot with grey skin, a red mohawk, and a red jacket with a white collar. It is in a dynamic, forward-leaning pose with its fists clenched.

PROUD

GREMLINS

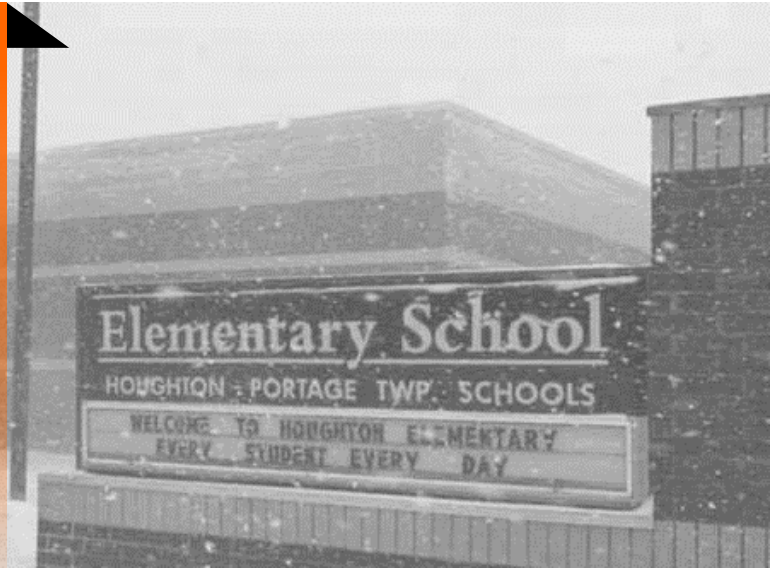
At Houghton-Portage Township Schools we are proud of all we have accomplished in the last year, and realize the tradition of excellence was created by the great students, staff, and community who have supported and built us to what we've become over the last 166 years. HPTS was first organized as School District No. 1 of Portage Township in 1857. Our students continue to achieve at very high levels, as evident by state rankings and awards at all grade levels.

We are proud of our improvements in the last year. We have added a school resource officer, with the help of the City of Houghton Police; a school wellness clinic which includes a school nurse and social worker, with the help of Upper Great Lakes Family Health; a new playground; and more support staff for students.

As we look to the future, we want to make sure we continue building on the strong foundation we have and making HPTS a place where all students achieve and are prepared to make our community a better place.



Celebrating Success with MTSS



For the last decade, HPTS has been an MTSS district. MTSS or Multi-Tiered System of Supports, is a systemic, continuous-improvement framework in which data-based problem solving and decision-making is practiced across all levels of the educational system for supporting students.

We have leadership teams in all of our buildings made of teachers and administrators, along with a district level team of teachers from all our buildings that meet and use this framework to support all our students' academic, social and emotional needs.

This process assists us in supporting students' individual needs and empowers teachers to use data to make decisions. Engaging in this work also helps us score well above state and local intermediate school averages on academic assessments and foster a school climate where students are able to learn and want to be at school.

2023 State M-Step, PSAT and SAT Scores- Numbers represent percent of students in each grade who scored at proficient or college readiness levels compared to state average and average of all schools in the Copper Country ISD.

| Grade/ Subject | HPTS 2023 | State 2023 | CCISD 2023 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 3rd Math | 65.3 | 42.9 | 57.6 |
| 3rd ELA | 60.2 | 40.9 | 51.2 |
| 8 th Math (PSAT) | 64.2 | 36.3 | 49.0 |
| 8 th ELA (PSAT) | 81.3 | 59.6 | 69.9 |
| 8 th Social Studies | 58.1 | 26.7 | 39.9 |
| 8 th Science | 66.1 | 37.4 | 48.5 |
| 11 th ELA (SAT) | 72.1 | 52.2 | 58.2 |
| 11 th Math (SAT) | 57.7 | 29.9 | 40.1 |

Looking to the Future

Dear Houghton-Portage Township Community,

As the new school year begins, we are excited to share with you our strategic plan for Houghton-Portage Township Schools. Our goals are centered around five key areas: academics, culture/learning environment, communications and community engagement, personnel/leadership, and operations. Our aim is to provide the best possible education for your child, and we believe that these objectives will help us achieve that goal.

Academics: At HPTS, we believe that every child deserves an education that meets their unique needs and interests. That's why our first objective is to enable and encourage greater participation in various educational pathways. We understand that traditional academic pursuits may not be the best fit for every student, and we want to provide a range of opportunities for every child to thrive. Whether your child is interested in vocational training or advanced placement or college level courses, we are committed to helping them achieve their goals.

Culture/Learning Environment: We also believe that every child should feel safe, welcome, and belong at school. Our second objective is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all students. We believe that a positive and supportive school culture is essential for student success, and we will work to create an environment where every child feels valued and respected. We will also provide resources and support for students who may need additional help.

Communications and Community Engagement: We recognize that strong partnerships with our families and community are essential for the success of our students. Our third objective is to focus on increasing community engagement and pride while continuing open and direct communication with students and families. We want to involve our parents and community members in the education process and keep them informed about what's happening at the school. We will also work to build a sense of school pride and encourage active involvement in school activities.

Personnel/Leadership: We know that our teachers and staff are the heart of our school community. Our fourth objective is to recruit, retain, and grow highly qualified staff. We are committed to attracting and retaining the best educators who are dedicated to helping our students succeed. We will also provide ongoing professional development opportunities for our staff to ensure that they are equipped with the latest teaching techniques and strategies.

Operations: Finally, we recognize that our facilities play a critical role in supporting student learning and success. Our fifth objective is to ensure high-quality facilities that accommodate a growing and evolving student body. We will work to ensure that our facilities are safe, modern, and equipped with the latest technology to support the learning of all students.

Thank you for the privilege of educating your children.
Anders Hill
Superintendent

Houghton-Portage Township Schools

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