



HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY

September Newsletter



Houghton Elementary School

Houghton-Portage Township Schools



Houghton Elementary School is a proud 2023 National Blue Ribbon School and a MTSS Silver Recognition school for behavior and reading supports. We provide a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where all students can thrive. Our dedicated staff fosters strong relationships and delivers a rich, well-rounded education that prepares students for success.

Upcoming Events

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 2nd

PICTURE DAY
Thursday, September 4th
Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades

Friday, September 5th
3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades

Every Day Counts!

At Houghton Elementary, we believe that **every student, every day** truly matters. Regular school attendance plays a key role in academic success, positive relationships, and long-term habits that support lifelong learning.

Here's how families can help:

- **Establish consistent routines for bedtime and morning.**
- **Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.**
- **Avoid extended vacations during the school year.**

Even missing just a few days each month can add up and impact a student's progress. Let's work together to make attendance a priority and ensure all our Gremlins thrive!

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found quickly becomes overflowing with jackets, lunch boxes, water bottles, and more! While we do our best to return items to their owners, unlabeled items are often hard to match with a student. We need your help!

Please remember to:

- **Label your child's belongings (especially coats, hats, water bottles, and lunch containers).**
- **Check the Lost and Found regularly—it's located down the steps by the cafeteria.**

Any unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each quarter. Let's work together to keep our Lost and Found manageable so that items are returned to their owners!



A Positive Climate and Culture

“Every Student. Every Day. Whatever it takes.” - Jimmy Casas

At Houghton Elementary, “Every student. Every day.” is more than a motto — it guides everything we do. Through Capturing Kids’ Hearts, The Positivity Project, and our T.E.A.M. behavior system, we build strong relationships and a safe, supportive environment where every student feels valued and ready to succeed.

The Positive Project

This fall, students at Houghton Elementary will dive into the Positivity Project, a program that builds strong character and positive relationships. Each week will have a different character theme with lessons. This month our focused character strengths will be:

- Intro Week introduced the core idea that **“Other People Matter,”** emphasizing kindness, empathy, and respect.
- **Curiosity** encouraged students to ask questions, explore new ideas, and stay excited about learning.
- **Teamwork** taught the importance of collaboration and supporting one another to achieve common goals.
- **Open-Mindedness** helped students learn to consider different perspectives and be open to new experiences.

These early lessons are building a strong foundation for a positive, respectful, and inclusive school environment!

MTSS

At Houghton Elementary, we use a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to ensure that every student receives the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support they need to thrive. Through data-driven decision making, targeted interventions, and ongoing progress monitoring, our staff works collaboratively to provide the right support at the right time for each learner. MTSS is a key part of our commitment to helping every student grow and succeed. Using MTSS, we have created positive behavior expectations for all aspects of our school.

TEAM is an acronym that helps us remember the positive behavior expectations.

Take responsibility
Earn respect
Act positively
Make it safe

If you would like your child to be considered for additional academic, behavioral or social-emotional supports, please complete the support request form on our school website or by **[CLICKING HERE](#)**.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

If your child’s after-school transportation plans change for the day, **please contact the office before 2:30pm!**



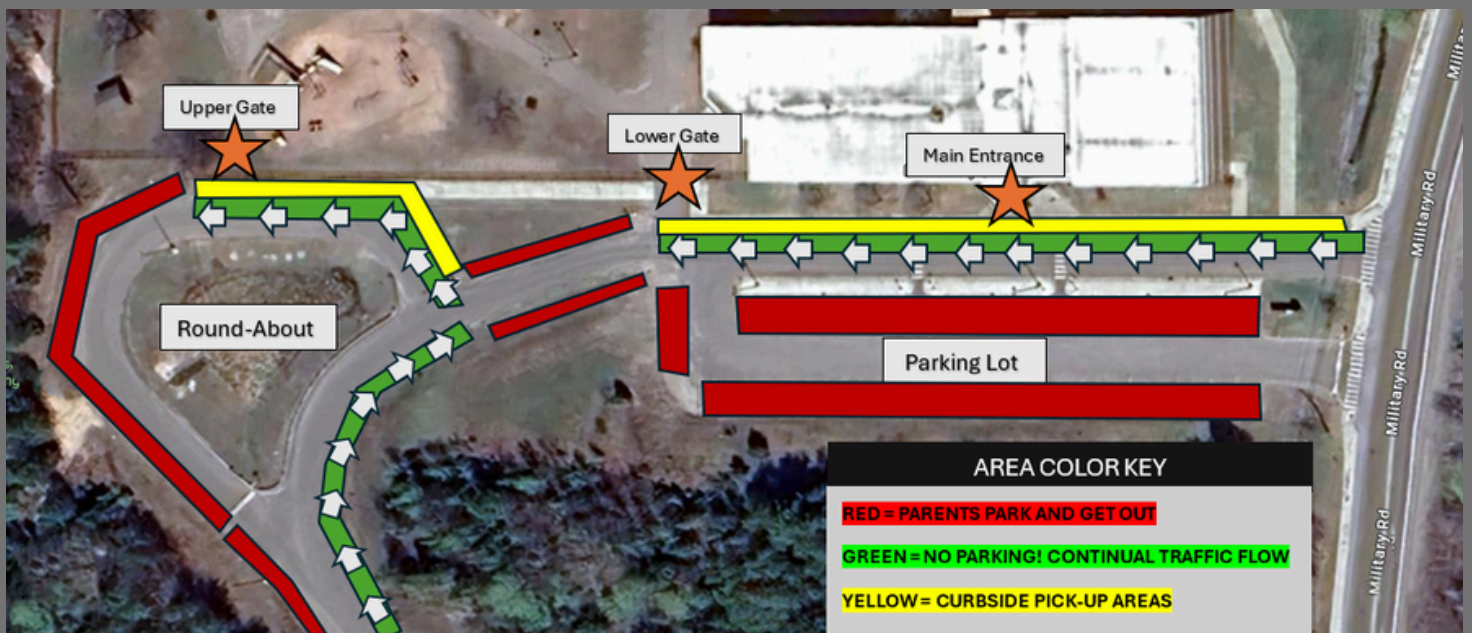
Parent Drop-off/Pick-up

Keeping it safe and smooth!

Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up are busy times of the day! Help us keep things running smoothly and safely for students by following our process.

When dropping off or picking up your child:

- Stay in your vehicle and keep traffic moving in the **GREEN ZONES**
- Only drop off or pick-up your child along the curb in the **YELLOW ZONES**
- Park and exit your vehicle **ONLY IN RED ZONES**



Helpful Tips!

At **DROP -OFF** consider using the Round-About. It's under-utilized!

- We have an adult stationed at the Round-About.
- Students dropped off at the Round-About can immediately enter the playground or walk down the sidewalk to the main entrance (parents' choice).

At **PICK-UP**, most students are picked up by 3:25pm. If you want to avoid the rush, plan on picking up after 3:25pm. Students play on the upper playground while waiting. **Staff are on duty until 3:40pm!**

- Young 5's/Kindergarten and 1st grade students are dismissed at 3:10pm. **Line-up first for pick-up.**
- 2nd - 5th grades are dismissed at 3:18pm. **Do not line-up before 3:00pm for pick-up.**
- If you have children dismissed at both 3:10pm and 3:18pm, plan on picking up for 3:18pm.
- We have several staff in orange vests to help. Follow their directions with traffic!
 - Communicate with staff if you have questions. They will radio the playground to get your child ready.
 - Stay positive with our staff. They are doing their best to get your child to you safely and quickly!