

The Houghton Connection

Houghton Elementary School ~ 8080 Elizabeth Lake Rd. ~ White Lake ~ MI ~ 48386



SHARPENING THE SAW
Balance Feels Best

SYNERGIZE
Together Is Better

SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD
Listen Before You Talk

THINK WIN-WIN
Everyone Can Win

PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST
Work First, Then Play

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND
Have a Plan

BE PROACTIVE
You're in Charge

April 2019

A Message from our Principal

Dear Houghton Families,

Believe it or not, this is the time of year when we are **beginning to plan for next year.**

- If you have a concern, teacher style or request you want me to be aware of as we make our class lists for next year, now is the time to put it in writing. Please have your notes delivered to the office by May 10. In your letter, please do not request a specific teacher as we shift personnel yearly in schools. It is best to speak to your child's specific needs and the type of teacher that would be a good match for him or her.
- Consider being involved in PTA next year. Next month our PTA meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6, at 7pm in our library. Please join us as we work on wrapping up this year with 5th Grade Recognition, Field Day and other important events followed by our planning for next year. We want our PTA to be an inclusive group that leads the way for the benefit of all students. YOU are welcome there!
- As a staff, we are always considering ways to improve our connection to our community. As we plan for next year, we would like some feedback on that very issue. Please take time to complete this short survey. It should take you no more than 5 minutes and the information is important for us to consider YOUR needs as parents raising school-aged children. Help us partner with you in a powerful way. <https://forms.gle/g8vpoiw22Rae9jUp9> The survey will be available until April 17.

Thank you for your support of all that is good at Houghton Elementary.

Sincerely,
Valerie Grimes

Upcoming Events

4/15	Troubadours	4/24	Spring Running Club
	Good News Club	4/25	Scout pack Meeting
4/18	Report Cards (available on line)	4/27	PTA—Dad's Day
	Girl Scouts	4/29	Good News Club
4/19	No School	4/30	Talent Show—Dress Rehearsal
4/22	Autism Spirit Week	5/1	Spring Running Club
	Good News Club	5/2	Girl Scouts
4/23	Special Ed. Assembly	5/3	TALENT SHOW
	5th grade Field Trip	5/6	Teacher Appreciation Week

Autism Spirit Week

Monday, 4/22 – Inside Out or Backward

We all know that sometimes seams and tags, or the way a collar fits can be uncomfortable, but what we find uncomfortable can become unbearable for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. At Houghton Elementary, we have found that several of the individuals we support prefer to wear their clothes in unique ways like inside out or backward. **Wear your clothes inside out or backward today and reflect on how it feels.** Is it comfortable? What other ideas can you come up with for making your clothes feel more comfortable?

Tuesday, 4/23 – Show us the “Real You”

Everyone has interests, hobbies, and passions that make them unique. Unfortunately, for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, society can make it difficult for anyone to see the person through the disability. At Houghton Elementary, we focus on what makes a person unique, rather than on their diagnosis. **Wear an article of clothing or bring a small item to school or work that reflects a part of what makes you who you are.** Be creative and be proud of you today!

Wednesday, 4/24 – Sensory Day

People with autism experience the world differently than others. For example, certain kinds of indoor lighting can be overwhelming and ambient sounds that most people may not even notice can be magnified for someone with autism. Sometimes, when they are over stimulated, touching something soft or getting a hug can be a comfort. **Wear or bring something to school or work that helps to calm you or makes you comfortable and reflect on why this thing is a comfort for you.**

Thursday, 4/25 – Communication Day

Can you imagine living life with no way to voice your thoughts and feelings? Another common characteristic of people with autism is non-verbal or limited verbal communication. How does it feel to be non-verbal? **Take a few 15-minute “word free” breaks throughout the day and figure out how to communicate your needs without saying a word.**

Friday, 4/26 – Wear Blue Day

What would an awareness campaign be without its own special color? Blue is the official color for Autism Acceptance. Show your support and wrap up this week by wearing blue today!

Voting for a teacher to get a Pie in the Face25 cents per ticket or 5 for \$1

Ball chair for a day weekly drawing ... 50 cents

Student Lighthouse Team



Our mission statements is:

**Together we will make an
Effort to
Accomplish
Magnificent Things**

----- (please detach and return to the school office) -----



We are currently making enrollment projections for next year and need to know if your child will be in attendance next year. If you are moving before school starts in the fall or your child will be attending another school (other than fifth graders attending middle school), please take a few minutes to complete this form and return it to the school by May 3, 2019. This will help us greatly in planning for next year.

Student Name: _____

Room #: _____

My child(ren) will NOT return for the 2019/20 school year.

Out of state (optional—please provide state

_____)

Out of district (optional—please provide name

_____)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

(please return to the school office by May 3, 2019)

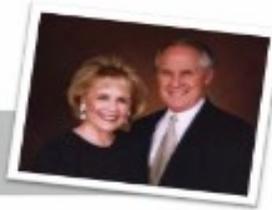


REMINDER—Dress Rehearsal—Multi Purpose Room, April 30th from 5—6:30 pm
TALENT SHOW—May 3rd

The
Leader in Me

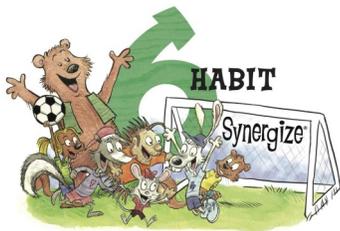
FAMILY NEWSLETTER

By Dr. John and Jane Covey



“Leadership is communicating people’s worth and potential so clearly that they are inspired to see it in themselves.”

--- Dr. Stephen R. Covey



“Alone we can do so little: together we can do so much.”

Helen Keller

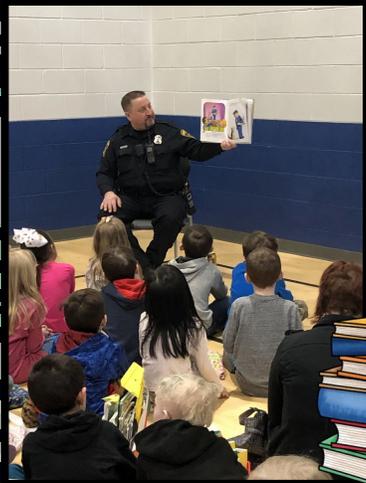
SYNERGIZE

- ⇒ **I GET ALONG WELL WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND WORK WELL IN GROUPS.**
- ⇒ **I VALUE THE STRENGTHS OF OTHERS AND ALLOW MYSELF TO LEARN FROM THEM.**
- ⇒ **I KNOW THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM WE CAN GET MORE DONE AND COME UP WITH BETTER SOLUTIONS THAN WE COULD ALONE.**



During our March Read-In, our students enjoyed 'camping' in the new gym! We had a ton of fun reading in tents and around camp fires with our blankets and stuffed animals.

Thank you to all the family members that came to read with their student and to the PTA for providing new books for all our students.



Community Rewards

Amazon Smile

All eligible purchases made through smile.amazon.com will have a percentage of the purchase price donated to Houghton Elementary PTA.

How to register:

- Go to smile.amazon.com.
- Sign into your Amazon account, or create one. It should prompt you to select your charity.
- Type "Douglass Houghton Elementary PTA" in the search bar.
- Confirm your selection of "Douglass Houghton Elementary PTA."

That's it! You are now signed up for AmazonSmile!

Please make sure that you are logged into AmazonSmile (not Amazon.com) when you are making purchases. Thank you for your support!

Kroger Community Rewards

Shop at Kroger, using a **registered** Kroger Card and Houghton Elementary PTA will receive a percentage of your purchases!

Make sure you have your Kroger Card handy, if you do not have one you can get one at any Kroger service desk.

How to register:

- Go to Kroger.com/communityrewards
- Sign in to your existing Kroger account or create a new account.
- Click 'view your rewards details.'
- Scroll down to Community Rewards and click 'edit.'
- Type 'Douglass Houghton PTA' in the search box.
- Click on your selection and click 'enroll.'

You have now registered Houghton PTA as your charity! Remember to use your Kroger Card each time you shop at Kroger.

If you have any questions please contact Jessica Pumfrey at JPumfrey8@gmail.com