

## HOUGHTON PTO – WHO ARE WE?

**Mission:** Promote a closer relationship between the home and the school, provide opportunities for parents and teachers to cooperate in child training and development, and to participate in the broader educational program in the community.

**Goal:** Serve as an active member of the Houghton community, whereby we help create an atmosphere that enables teachers and administrators to do their best work.

**Program Sponsorship:** The PTO sponsors two Book Fairs, the Holiday Shop, the Annual Year Book, Book Swap, First-Day Folders, Bus Greeters, Zero the Hero, Picture Day and other activities within the school.

**Program Funding:** The PTO is here to provide additional funding to support the school and the money we raise goes back to Houghton in many different ways, including field trips and assemblies.

**Fundraising:** Many of the opportunities our children have to learn and develop are made possible through the programs sponsored and funded by the PTO. We have both active and passive fundraising activities.

Our active fundraising includes a fall fundraising drive, t-shirt sales, as well as proceeds from the Holiday Shop and the Book Fairs.

Our passive fundraising includes Saline Scrip, Boxtops for Education, Campbells labels and recycling. We could earn a substantial amount of money if every family took advantage of these programs.

**Volunteers:** Certain activities are only possible due to the fundraising efforts of the PTO. Many activities are only made possible with the support of volunteers who donate their time.

Most students will only be at Houghton for one school year. Each parent in the Houghton community can make a difference while you are here. Examples include:

- Participate in the monthly meetings
- Chair a Committee
- Volunteer within a Committee
- Utilize Scrip for your shopping and gift card needs – check [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) to check the full list of participating companies (see Retailer List link on left of page and choose alphabetically or by category)
- Collect Boxtops – get family and friends to do this too! Simply cut out the Boxtop coupon on any participating product and drop it in the Boxtop collection bin. Check out the program on line at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/>
- Collect Campbell labels – remember family and friends again! You need to cut the UPC bar codes from the Campbell labels and drop them in the Campbell label bin. The website for further information is <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/default.aspx>.
- Recycling (ink cartridges, toner cartridges, cell phones). A bin is provided in the school lobby for these items.
- Create a unique and rewarding experience for our children

The PTO exists to help our school give our children the best possible start in their education journey and we hope that you will support your PTO Board in any way you can.