



A Message from Principal Bedard

Dear Higgins Middle School Families,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. My name is **Seith Bedard**, and I am honored and excited to introduce myself as the new Principal of Higgins Middle School.

I have proudly served the Peabody Public Schools for more than 20 years in a variety of roles, including Special Education Teacher, Health and Wellness Teacher, Director of the Peabody Learning Academy, and most recently, Assistant Principal at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. Each of these experiences has strengthened my commitment to supporting students, partnering with families, and creating positive learning environments where all students can thrive.

Higgins Middle School holds a special place in my heart, as I am also a proud graduate of Higgins. Returning to the school as Principal is truly a full-circle moment, and I am incredibly excited to begin this next chapter. I look forward to getting to know our students, families, and staff and working together to ensure the success of every child.

Throughout the summer, I am available and welcome the opportunity to connect with families. If you have any questions, concerns, or simply want to introduce yourself, please do not hesitate to reach out. I will be happy to assist in any way that I can.

During the school year, you can expect to receive bi-weekly communications from me through my **Principal's Updates**. These updates are intended to keep families informed about important school events, celebrations, initiatives, and other happenings within our school community.

I am excited to partner with you and your student in the upcoming school year and look forward to a successful year together.

Warm regards,

Seith Bedard

Principal

Higgins Middle School



Our Vision for Higgins

As I begin my first year as principal, I have had the opportunity to spend time this summer working closely with our administrative team to reflect on our strengths and identify priorities for the year ahead. Together, we are committed to building a school culture where every student is challenged, supported, and inspired to succeed.

Our focus this year will center on:

- High expectations for every student
- Strong, positive relationships
- Student Daily Attendance
- Belonging and school pride
- Consistency and accountability
- Establish clear and consistent routines help reduce unnecessary chaos

These priorities will guide our decisions, our interactions, and our work each day. Our shared goal is for every student to leave Higgins academically prepared, socially confident, and emotionally equipped for success in high school and beyond. We look forward to partnering with our students, families, and staff to make this vision a reality.



What's New This Year?

Updated Morning Routine

Beginning this school year, Higgins will implement an updated morning routine designed to create a calm, welcoming, and structured start to each day. Establishing consistent routines helps students transition into learning, build positive habits, and maximize instructional time.

- **7:45 AM:** Students enter the building for breakfast, open gym, and free time in the Auditorium.
- **8:05 AM:** 1st Bell dismissing students to Homeroom
- **8:15 AM:** 2nd Bell indicating the start of Homeroom. Students will listen to morning announcements generated and presented by students. Any student arriving after the 8:15 Bell will be marked tardy.
- **8:19 AM:** Bell dismisses students to their 1st academic block of the day.

Help Choose Our New Higgins Logo!

Exciting things are happening at Higgins! Our current school logo has served us well over the years, but it's time for a fresh new look that reflects the pride, energy, and spirit of our school community. Students will have the opportunity to vote on one of four new logo designs, giving them a voice in selecting the image that will represent Higgins for years to come.

Our new logo will appear on Higgins apparel available for students, staff, and families to purchase. To help build school spirit, we're also launching **Higgins Pride Fridays**, when everyone is encouraged to wear their Higgins gear and show their school pride. We can't wait to reveal the winning design and see our school community united in celebrating what makes Higgins such a special place to learn and grow!



Enrichment & Student Support

This year's Enrichment Block will have a clear and consistent focus on supporting the whole child by strengthening both students' social-emotional well-being and their academic success. On Mondays and Fridays, students will participate in the Wayfinder curriculum, giving them regular opportunities to build skills in self-awareness, self-management, relationships, responsible decision-making, and developing a strong sense of purpose and belonging within our school community. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, the emphasis will shift to academics. During this time, teachers will help students monitor their grades in ASPEN, identify missing assignments, set goals, improve organization, and develop plans to stay on track. Teachers will also complete bi-weekly Academic Success Progress Reports and use this information to communicate with classroom teachers and identify students who may need additional support. By working together with counselors, families, and grade-level teams, we can provide timely interventions while helping students take greater ownership of their learning and continue building the skills they need to be successful both in middle school and beyond.



Important Expectations

Food Deliveries & Parents Dropping off Goods

As a reminder, students may not receive food deliveries from services such as Uber Eats, DoorDash, Grubhub, or similar delivery companies during the school day. In addition, parents and guardians should not drop off fast food or specialty items, including Dunkin' Donuts or similar restaurant purchases, for students during the school day. These practices create disruptions and are not permitted. If a student forgets their lunch, a parent or guardian may drop off a lunch from home at the main office. Higgins Middle School also continues to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students each day, ensuring that every student has access to a healthy meal while at school.

Student Dismissals

To help ensure the safety of all students, Higgins Middle School will not dismiss students to Uber, Lyft, or any other ride-share service. Students may only be dismissed to a parent, legal guardian, or an emergency contact listed in ASPEN. If your child's dismissal plans change, please make sure the individual picking them up is listed as an approved contact. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and secure dismissal process for all students.

Bike Safety

The safety of our students continues to be our top priority. As we begin the new school year, we will once again be reinforcing our expectations for safe arrival and dismissal, as well as appropriate behavior as students enter and leave the building each day.

Students who ride bicycles or scooters to school must walk them once they enter school

property. Riding on school grounds creates a safety risk for pedestrians and other students. Failure to follow this expectation will result in a conference with Mr. Bedard and may ultimately lead to the loss of the privilege of riding a bike or scooter to school.

Massachusetts law requires all cyclists under the age of 16 to wear a properly fitted helmet.

Students who arrive at school without a helmet will not be permitted to ride their bike home at dismissal. A parent or guardian will be required to pick up both the student and the bicycle and meet with Mr. Bedard before the student may resume riding to school.

Due to growing safety concerns and several serious accidents involving young riders in our area, **Higgins Middle School will not permit e-bikes on school property this year.** This decision was made with student safety in mind, and we appreciate your support as we work to provide a safe environment for everyone.

We also ask families to remind students to use crosswalks, follow the directions of our crossing guards and staff, and demonstrate respectful, responsible behavior during arrival and dismissal. Working together, we can ensure a safe start and end to every school day.



Important Dates

-  **August 27** : Meet Mr. Bedard- Parent Night 6-7 pm
-  **September 2**: First Day of school: 6th Grade Assembly
-  **September 3**: 7th Grade Assembly
-  **September 4-6**: NO SCHOOL- Labor Day Obsrvation
-  **September 8**: 8th Grade Assembly
-  **September 11**: Picture Day
-  **September 21**: NO SCHOOL; Yom Kippor Absevation
-  **September 24**: Safety Taskforce Meeting 6:30- 8:00 pm

Thank you for reading, our staff and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for a great school year ahead!

Sincerely,

Seith Bedard
Higgins Middle School Principal
Bedards@peabody.k12.ma.us
Instagram: @Higginsprincipal

