



**Odessa Shannon Middle School**  
11800 Monticello Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20902  
Phone: (240) 740-4150 FAX: (301) 649-2430

October 27, 2024

Dear Odessa Shannon Families,

We hope this message finds you well. We are excited to keep you informed about important updates, upcoming events, and highlights for the week ahead.

### **Spooky Spirit Week**

**Monday:** Movie Monster Day—dress up as a movie monster (leave the mask/props at home!!)

**Tuesday:** Terrifying Twin Day— match spooky outfits with a friend

**Wednesday:** Wicked Wacky Day—Mix and match your scariest clothes

**Thursday:** Thrilling Threads Day—Wear your spooky festive outfit (leave the mask/props at home!!)

**Friday:** Frightful Formal Day—Sport some spooky formal attire

### **Halloween Costumes**

If your child chooses to wear a costume on Halloween they should follow the guidelines below:

- **No Masks or Face Paint:** Keep your faces visible to teachers and staff.
- **No Weapons or Props:** Leave any imitation weapons or distracting accessories at home.
- **Respectful Costumes Only:** Costumes should be inclusive, respectful, and avoid anything that could be considered offensive or inappropriate. **No inflatable costumes.**
- **School Rules Still Apply:** Follow the regular dress code guidelines regarding appropriate attire.

Additionally, we ask that students **do not bring Halloween candy to school.**

**All 8th Grade Families:** High School Regional/Countywide Application deadline is Friday, November 1, 2024.

This week is the final week of the High School Regional/Countywide Application Process. Your student has numerous options available for next year and we want to encourage you to explore the regional/countywide options that are available to your student. Information can be found on this website: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/>, including:

- [List](#) of high school programs.
- ParentVUE [Support Guide](#)
- High School Special Program [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Video: How to apply](#)

To access your application:

[https://md-mcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2\\_Login\\_Parent.aspx?regenerateSessionId=True](https://md-mcps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login_Parent.aspx?regenerateSessionId=True)

If you need assistance accessing your ParentVUE account or updating your address, please contact Mr. Purdie at 240-740-4160. **The deadline for the application is Friday, November 1, 2024**

**The end of marking period 1 is on Friday, November 1, 2024.** Please encourage your child to check in with their teachers regarding grades and assignments that are missing. If you have any questions about your child's grade and/or attendance please reach out to your child's teachers or counselor via email or by phone at 240-740-4150. Additionally, grade information is always accessible through ParentVue/StudentVue. This is a reminder that **Monday, November 4, 2024 is a grading and planning day for teachers, there is no school for students.**

**November 5, 2024 is Election Day. There is no school for staff and students.**

### **Daylight Savings Times Ends**

This is just a reminder that on Sunday, November 3, 2024 the daylight savings time ends. This means that we “ fall back” one hour and gain an extra hour of sleep. Remember to set your clocks at home.

### **Blankets at School**

We are asking for students to refrain from bringing blankets to school. The blankets have become a distraction from the learning taking place in the classroom. If the student is cold he/she can wear a light jacket/sweater throughout the day.

### **Homework Club**

Homework Club is a great opportunity for students to get extra academic support! The Homework Club is an OSMS resource for improving grades, staying on top of schoolwork, and reaching academic goals, especially with a focus on GPA, IXL Math goals, and grade checks. Please pick up a flier from the Main Office, Ms. Montgomery's office (2225) or see our fantastic sponsors Ms. Hutchinson and Ms. Jenifer for a flier today! Homework Club meets every Monday from 3:30-5:30! Come join us!

If you have any questions or concerns, please email: [andria\\_m\\_hutchinson@mcpsmd.org](mailto:andria_m_hutchinson@mcpsmd.org) or [natie\\_m\\_jenifer@mcpsmd.org](mailto:natie_m_jenifer@mcpsmd.org).

### **Family Feedback Survey for 2025-2026 School Calendar**

MCPS is seeking input about the 2025–2026 school year calendar! Please take a moment to complete the [MCPS School Calendar Feedback Survey](#). Your input will be used to select the first and last day of school, as well as other important dates for the coming school year.

### **Save the Dates! We have exciting events coming up for our school community.**

- **Monday, November 11, 2024** Pastries for Parents. Join us for pastries and coffee from 8:00-8:35am then walk your child to their first period class.
- **Tuesday, November 12, 2024** Combined PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council Meeting 6:00-8:00 pm. Spanish interpretation will be provided.
- **Saturday, November 16, 2024** Wolfpack Fun Run! Join us in our first family fun run, details are forthcoming.

Please review the important information below regarding cell phones, Chromebooks, and parent-school communication. On the next pages, you will find important general information. If you have any questions, please contact the school by phone at (240) 740-4150.

Warmest Regards,

*Natasha H. Booms*

Dr. Natasha Booms

Principal

**Important Information for Parents/Guardians**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Information</b>
<p>MCPS Things to Know for Thursday, October 24, 2024</p>	<p>Please open the following link to see the MCPS things you should know. <a href="#">Things to Know.ENG</a></p>
<p>OSMS Afterschool and Sports Activities</p>	<p>We encourage students to get involved in their school community! Families should check in with your child’s sponsor and coach for the meeting days of the activities, practices and sporting events, please see our <a href="#">afterschool offerings</a> here. A hot snack (for ex. pizza, chicken nuggets, etc.) will be provided to students prior to the activity starting. Students may ride the 4:30 PM activity bus home, please note that activity bus stop drop offs are not the same as students’ normal bus stops. <a href="#">Evening Activity Bus Stops</a>.</p>
<p>Annual Environmental Compliance Information</p>	<p>Please see attached the Asbestos Management Plan Notification and the Integrated Pest Management Notification. <a href="#">Non-Asbestos Notification.ENG</a> <a href="#">Integrated Pest Management Notification.ENG</a></p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Parents/Guardians please remind your child that school/class attendance is important. If a student is more than 20 minutes late to class, it is considered a class absence. If a student misses four or more class periods it will count as a whole day of absence. Parents/Guardians will receive an automated phone call from the school if your child is more than 20 minutes late to a class or if they miss more than four class periods. If you have a question about attendance please call to speak with Ms. Martinez, our attendance secretary or your child’s grade level counselor. Please make sure that you provide a note if your child is absent from school.</p>
<p>Cellphones Away All Day Policy</p>	<p><b>Cell phones:</b> <b>Odessa Shannon has an <i>Away All Day</i> electronics policy.</b> We comply with the county expectations for cell phone usage in middle schools. We encourage students <i>not to bring</i> cell phones and other electronic devices, such as earbuds, to school. If students must bring their phones to school we ask them to keep them out of sight for the school day. Students are not allowed to use cell phones in the classroom, hallways or at lunch. They may only use them before and after school. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones/electronics. <b>If a device becomes a distraction parents will be notified and asked to pick up the cell phones.</b> This information will be shared multiple times with students on the first day of school and throughout the week. If a student has to call home they may ask their teacher for a pass to make the call in the main office.</p> <p>We also encourage families to familiarize themselves with <a href="#">Grace's Law</a>, Maryland’s legislation against cyberbullying, which will be part of our classroom discussions this month. Educating our students on the legal</p>

	implications of bullying, both in person and online, is crucial to our collective effort to keep everyone safe.
Dangers of Vaping	<p><b>Dangers of Vaping</b></p> <p>Please talk to your children about the dangers of vaping. While it may seem harmless, vaping can damage the lungs, lead to addiction, and harm the body in ways that are not always visible right away. Many vape products contain harmful chemicals and high levels of nicotine, which can affect brain development and mood. Encourage your children to make informed choices and ask questions if they're unsure. Their health and safety are what matter most. <a href="#">MCPS Vaping Information</a>.</p>
Parent Information for ParentVUE	<p>One page of information for Parent Vue, CEP, counseling and school websites.</p> <p><a href="#">English</a>  <a href="#">Spanish</a>Please continue to check our website on a regular basis for all school information. We are updating our website on a regular basis with updated information. <a href="#">WEBSITE</a>  <a href="#">How to activate my ParentVUE account</a></p>
School Calendar for 2024-2025	<p><a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY25</a>  <a href="#">Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25</a></p>
Bus Schedules	<p>Schedules with bus stop and time information are located at the links below and on our website.</p> <p>Please be mindful that students should arrive at their bus stop 10 mins prior to the scheduled time listed to ensure they are on time and do not miss the bus.</p> <p><a href="#">Bus Information ARRIVAL</a>  <a href="#">Bus Information DEPARTURE</a></p>
Bell Times and School Attendance	<p><a href="#">Bell Schedule</a></p> <p>Regular school attendance is required. Students are expected to report to school on time and be prepared each day. The school day is from 8:10am-3:00 p.m. If students are not able to attend classes please email Ms. Johana Martinez, attendance secretary at <a href="mailto:Johana_S_MartinezMartinez@mcpsmd.org">Johana_S_MartinezMartinez@mcpsmd.org</a> or call the main office at (240) 740-4150. Students should bring in a note the next day about their excused absence in order to adjust the absence to excused.</p> <p>Students are not supervised in the building until 7:50 a.m., students should not be dropped off before this time as it is a safety concern. <b>Students will remain outside until 7:50 AM</b> We will have a new Student drop off area that is marked, please drop off students in the designated area only.</p>

	Finally, to ensure that students receive the maximum instructional time, <b>students will not be called out of class for messages and parents should avoid conflicts that interfere with class attendance as much as possible.</b>
myMCPS Classroom/Canvas	The myMCPS-Canvas platform will continue to be used for teaching and learning during the school year. Students will access their assignments, receive messages and use this platform to turn in work as appropriate. <i>*Parents/Guardians can access myMCPS Classroom via ParentVUE</i>
Chromebooks	Odessa Shannon will have Chromebook Carts with class sets of chromebooks available for student use in the classroom. For students who need a device to use at home, students, parents, and MCPS staff can fill out the <a href="#">Student Home Use Chromebook Request</a> form on behalf of the student. The student's information will be verified for take-home device eligibility, and then a Chromebook will be sent to the school to be checked out to the student. Students will not be required to transport home-use Chromebooks to and from school.
Lockers	All students were assigned a locker the first day of school. We ask that all students put their backpacks in their locker. Students should not carry backpacks throughout the school day.
Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)	We are looking for parents who are interested in joining our PTSA as we continue to grow stronger. If you are interested, please contact our main office at (240) 740-4150 or via email at: <a href="mailto:odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com">odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com</a> .
Sunday Message to the Community	During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through <i>ParentVue</i> and <i>Remind</i> about the upcoming events at OSMS and throughout the county. <b>Please make sure your information is up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails.</b> .