



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

November 03, 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. This is just a reminder to set your clocks back one hour this weekend! Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3. Enjoy the extra hour, and we look forward to seeing our students bright and early on Wednesday morning, November 6, 2024.

**Monday, November 4, 2024 is a Grading/Planning Day**

There will be no school for students on **Monday, November 4, 2024**, it is a grading and planning day for teachers to finalize gradebooks. If you have any questions about your child's grades please directly contact their teacher.

**Tuesday, November 5, 2024 is General Election Day**

School and offices will be **CLOSED** on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024** for the general elections.

Students return to school on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

**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. Please see the flier for details.
- [Pastries for Parents.flier](#)
- **Tuesday, November 12, 2024** Combined PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council Meeting 6:00-8:00 pm. Spanish interpretation will be provided.
- **Wednesday, November 13, 2024** SGA Jollibee Fundraiser in Wheaton, MD, please see the attached flier for details [SGA Jollibee Fundraiser](#)
- **Saturday, November 16, 2024** Wolfpack Fun Run! Join us in our first family fun run. Please see the flier for details. [Family Fun Run/Walk](#)

**Support our School Wide Cherrydale Fundraiser!**

Odessa Shannon Middle School fundraiser is starting today, **Friday, November 1, 2024** and we need your help. We are raising funds to support our school for essential student programs not currently funded through traditional means.

It's as simple as 1, 2, 3!

1. Register TONIGHT as [www.FundPrizes.com](http://www.FundPrizes.com)
2. Add 10 friend and family contacts during registration...then Click-to-Share the Text, Email, Facebook and X icons on your dashboard to send your personalized fundraising link
3. Student Goal: 5 Supporters

REGISTER. SHARE. WIN. When you register and share, you'll earn coins on your student dashboard that unlock chances to win from over 1,000 prizes worth over \$100,000 including Apple AirPods, MacBook Pros, Visa Gift Cards, a Disney World Family Vacation and more!

Fundraiser Links:

- How-to Video: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8752340>
- Kick-off Videos: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8752382>
- [Parent Letter](#) <- click

- Prize Program: <https://www.cherrydalebackoffice.com/images/PrizeProgram/Standard/Prize-Blitz.jpg>

Thank you for doing your part to make our first fundraiser of the year a success!

**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.

**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.

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**

Topic	Information
MCPS Things to Know for Thursday, October 31, 2024	Please open the following link to see the MCPS things you should know. <a href="#">Things to Know.ENG</a>
OSMS Afterschool and Sports Activities	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> .
Annual Environmental Compliance Information	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>

Attendance	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.
Cellphones Away All Day Policy	<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.
Parent Information for ParentVUE	One page of information for Parent Vue, CEP, counseling and school websites. <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>
School Calendar for 2024-2025	<a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY25</a> <a href="#">Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25</a>
Bus Schedules	Schedules with bus stop and time information are located at the links below and on our website. 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. <a href="#">Bus Information ARRIVAL</a> <a href="#">Bus Information DEPARTURE</a>
Bell Times and School Attendance	<a href="#">Bell Schedule</a> 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

	<p>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> <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></p>
Cafeteria (Breakfast and Lunch) Information	<p>Each OSMS student will receive free breakfast and lunch. <i>This does not include any a la carte items. Those will still be charged at their regular rate.</i></p> <p>If you have other students in your household and do not attend one of the chosen schools you will need the free and reduced lunch application as this information is used to determine eligibility for a variety of state/federal assistance programs. Applications will need to be completed online at the following website: <a href="http://www.MySchoolApps.com">www.MySchoolApps.com</a></p> <p>Students are not allowed to have food delivered to school. If you wish to drop off lunch for your child. It must be dropped off at the front office.</p>
myMCPS Classroom/Canvas	<p>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></p>
Chromebooks	<p>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.</p>
Lockers	<p>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.</p>
Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)	<p>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>.</p>
Sunday Message to the Community	<p>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</b></p>

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