



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

December 15, 2024

Dear Odessa Shannon Families,

As the holiday season approaches, we want to thank you for your partnership and support throughout this school year. The upcoming Winter break is a wonderful time to rest, and reflect. We wish you a joyful and peaceful holiday season filled with warmth, and happiness. We look forward to seeing your students refreshed and ready to learn when we return on January 2, 2025. Happy Holidays and New Year.

Winter Break Schedule

The winter break for students will be from **Monday, December 23, 2024 thru January 1, 2025, school will be closed for students.** Students will return to school on **Tuesday, January 2, 2025.**

There will be no weekly message on Sunday, December 22, 2024. Weekly communication will resume on December 29, 2024.

We will celebrate Holiday Spirit Week December 16, 2024 to December 20, 2024

Monday: Candy Cane Monday (wear red and white)

Tuesday: Cozy Tuesday (dress comfy)

Wednesday: Ugly Sweater Day (the uglier the better)

Thursday: Tartan Thursday (wear your favorite flannels)

Friday: Festive Friday (rock your holiday gear)

Fresh Food Market at OSMS

We are excited to share that OSMS will have its Fresh Food Market on Monday, December 16, 2024, from 3:30-5:00 PM. All families are encouraged to attend. The market will be held on the far right of the building next to the gym. Please bring your own grocery bags and dress for the weather. See the flier for more information [Fresh Food Flier.ENG](#)

Interims Grade Reports

Student interim reports will be sent via the United States Postal Service to families on December 20, 2024. If you have any concerns about your child's academic progress please reach out directly to their teachers and/or grade level counselor.

Meal Viewer

MealViewer, the new interactive menu platform for Montgomery County Public Schools breakfast and lunch menus. Students, caregivers, school staff, nurses, and community members will have digital access to menus and meal information. Please go to the following link for more information. [Meal Viewer Info. ENG](#)

Acer Chromebook Collection and Decommissioning

Effective December 4, 2024, MCPS will be disabling and collecting older Acer model Chromebooks because they have reached end-of-life and should no longer be in use. The models being retired include the Acer C720, C740, C738, and C771. These Acer devices are currently being used in limited settings, including for home use and to run kiosks or signage in schools. Students currently using one of the listed Acer Chromebook models should return their device to your school's ITSS. Students who need a device for home use can submit a request for a new device by completing the [Home Use form](#). All 15-inch Acer Spins, as well as Lenovo devices, will continue to work as expected.

Student Service Learning Opportunities

This is a reminder that SSL learning hours that were earned over the summer and first semester are due by January 3, 2025. Please see additional December SLL opportunities for students [here](#).

Holiday Tree!

Please stop by the Westfield Shopping Center at 11160 Veirs Mill Rd., Wheaton, MD, to visit the Holiday Tree Wonderland. Odessa Shannon Middle School will have a school-themed decorated tree displayed on the first level near JCPenney! This community event is sponsored by the Montgomery County Police (District 4 Station). Several businesses have been invited to participate and showcase their organization.

School Store

Get your Odessa Shannon School Gear! If you want to order any school Odessa Shannon t-shirt, sweatshirts, etc. you can order items with this [link](#) until January 10, 2025. The items ordered will be delivered approximately in three weeks.

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
Things to know for Thursday, December 12, 2024	MCPS Things to know for Thursday, December 12, 2024. Please read the link for more information. Things to Know. ENG
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 afterschool offerings 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. Evening Activity Bus Stops .

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	Cell phones: Odessa Shannon has an <i>Away All Day</i> electronics policy. 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. If a device becomes a distraction parents will be notified and asked to pick up the cell phones. 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. English Spanish 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. WEBSITE How to activate my ParentVUE account
School Calendar for 2024-2025	Traditional School Calendar SY25 Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25
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. Bus Information ARRIVAL Bus Information DEPARTURE
Bell Times and School Attendance	Bell Schedule 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

	<p>Johana S MartinezMartinez@mcpsmd.org 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. Students will remain outside until 7:50 AM 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, students will not be called out of class for messages and parents should avoid conflicts that interfere with class attendance as much as possible.</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: www.MySchoolApps.com</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 Student Home Use Chromebook Request 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: odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com.</p>

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 OSMSand throughout the county. Please make sure your information is up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails. .
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