



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

February 2, 2025

Dear Odessa Shannon Families,

We hope this message finds you well. As we embark on another week here at Odessa Shannon, we want to keep you informed about the latest school developments and important dates. Please review the events that are currently occurring at Odessa Shannon.

National Counseling Week

National School Counseling Week 2025 is February 3-7, 2025. This week focuses on the unique contribution of school counselors within the U.S. school systems and highlights the impact they have in helping students achieve academic success, career readiness, and social-emotional development.

Community Cafecito

Please join us for Community Cafecito, where you will have the opportunity to meet staff and connect with other OSMS families in a friendly atmosphere. **We will meet on Wednesday, February 5, 2025**, from 8:10 to 9:10 AM in the Linkages to Learning conference room. Please check in for the meeting in the main office.

Rising 7th /8th Grade Curriculum Information Night

We will host a makeup Curriculum Information Night on Zoom for rising 7th and 8th-grade families on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, starting at 6:30 PM. During the meeting, Odessa Shannon Middle School staff will share course offerings for each content area and answer any questions you may have. If you have questions prior to the meeting, please contact your child's grade-level counselor. The meeting will be held virtually, and Spanish translation services will be provided.

Zoom information:

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/86312123532?pwd=Z3ZPZzJlbUlvZXdHRmhjR3NzV3BiUT09>

Meeting ID: 863 1212 3532

Passcode: 914580

Report Cards

On **Thursday, February 6, 2025** report cards will be distributed to students. If you do not receive your child's report card, you may view the report card on ParentVue. If you would like a copy please call the front office at 240-740-4150.

Combined PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council Meeting

Join us for a combined PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council Meeting on February 11, 2025, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The evening will include school updates, Valentine's Day surprises, and dinner. We will also feature guest speakers from [The Standby Guardianship](#) to discuss new immigration policies and answer your questions. Spanish translation will be provided and there will be a zoom option for families that cannot make the meeting in person.

HBCU Fair Friday, February 14, 2025

Eighth grade students are invited to attend the HBCU College Fair at the University of Shady Grove on February 14, 2025 from 6:00-8:30 PM. Please see the flier for more information. [HBCU flier](#).

A Midsummer Night's Dream-Play- New Dates

Due to snow days and delays we had to reschedule our school play. The new dates of the play are Friday, Friday, February 7, 2025 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 2:00 PM. Students will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream". The cost for adults is \$7 and for students is \$3.

Sign up for Important Weather Alerts

How do you stay informed now that the weather is changing? Please make sure that you sign up for the weather alert and the MCPS Emergency Information to keep up with the latest school closures and/or delays. Please review the [link](#) for more information.

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	Here are a few things to know for Thursday, January 30, 2025. 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 tardy/early departure or absent from school. The note must be received within 3 days of the return date to school. Notes received after that date will not be accepted.
Cellphones	Cell phones:

<p>Away All Day Policy</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Parent Information for ParentVUE</p>	<p>One page of information for Parent Vue, CEP, counseling and school websites. English SpanishPlease 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</p>
<p>School Calendar for 2024-2025</p>	<p>Traditional School Calendar SY25 Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25</p>
<p>Bus Schedules</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Bell Times and School Attendance</p>	<p>Bell Schedule</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 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>

	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.
Cafeteria (Breakfast and Lunch) Information	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> 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 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.
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 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.
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: odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com .
Sunday Message to the Community	During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through <i>Synergy email</i> and <i>Remind</i> about the upcoming events at OSMS and throughout the county. Please make sure your information is up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails. .