



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

October 13, 2024

Dear Odessa Shannon Families,

We would like to extend a huge thank you for your incredible support in making this year's Hispanic Heritage Festival a success! We deeply appreciate everyone who came to support the event and brought food to share, representing the rich diversity of your cultures and traditions. Your participation and enthusiasm helped to create a noteworthy celebration.

### **PTSA**

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Karmen Rouland has been elected as our new PTSA President, and Ms. Natlie Jenifer has been elected as our Vice President. PTSA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in joining, please contact our main office at (240) 740-4150 or via email at [odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com).

### **Monday, October 14, 2024 is Picture Day!**

Mark your calendars! School picture day is scheduled for **October 14th**. This is a great opportunity to capture your child's school memories, so be sure they come to school looking their best!

Please read the attached flier for more information. [Picture Day Flier](#). Students received hard copies of the flier in their homeroom class a week ago. **Checks** should be made payable to **Legacy Studios**. You can also **pay online** by visiting [shop.legacystudios.com](http://shop.legacystudios.com) and using the code **4651F25**.

**The Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence (BBC)** is excited to invite you to an important Town Hall. This event will feature a special guest, **MCPS Superintendent Dr. Thomas Taylor**, who will discuss key issues affecting our community and schools.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 23, 2024

**Time:** 6-8pm (doors will open at 5:30pm)

**Location:** Wheaton HS auditorium – 12401 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906

- Childcare (for up to 80 students, k-2nd grade)
- Catered meal will be provided
- Spanish, Amharic and ASL interpretation will be available
- Shuttle Bus service will be available, from local Elementary Schools

This Town Hall will introduce our community to Dr. Taylor and provide an opportunity to hear his plans for:

- Improving reading data for all students, including a focus on Black and Brown students
- Enhancing school safety and security
- Implementing an equity plan that includes resources to support MCPS students
- Strengthening community engagement and support services, including counseling, mentorship programs, and academic assistance for students

Your presence and participation are crucial as we strive to create a more inclusive and supportive educational environment for our children. We look forward to seeing you there and working together towards a brighter future for our community.

Please RSVP by using this QR code or the link below by Friday, October 18th to ensure we can accommodate everyone or register using this [LINK](#).

### **Student Cellphone usage**

Please monitor your child's cell phone usage, this is a reminder that Odessa Shannon Middle School is an "Away All Day" school (please see detailed information under our important information section below). Students should use their cellphones responsibly by staying focused on school activities and minimizing distractions. When online, it's important to engage positively, treat others with respect, and avoid negative behaviors such as cyberbullying or sharing inappropriate content. Parents are encouraged to monitor group chats and social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok to ensure that students are using these spaces safely and responsibly.

We also encourage families to familiarize themselves with [Grace's Law](#), Maryland's legislation against cyberbullying, which will be part of our classroom discussions this month. Educating our students on the legal implications of bullying, both in person and online, is crucial to our collective effort to keep everyone safe.

### **Title 1 School Licensure Information**

This newsletter item lets parents know that they have the right to request licensure information, and we have to document that it was shared. Please let me know if you have any questions.

[Title 1 Parent Information](#)

### **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.

### **EBB After School Programs started on Monday September 30, 2024**

The Montgomery County Recreation Center sponsors Excel Beyond the Bell the program runs *Monday, September 30th-Thursday, December 19, 2024*. Expectations and Disciplinary actions are in alignment with Odessa Shannon's. Students participating in EBB will take the 5:30PM activity bus home, please note that activity bus stop drop offs are not the same as students' normal bus stops. [EBB brochure](#)  
[Evening Activity Bus Stops](#)

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>  |
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| <p>MCPS Things to Know for Thursday, October 10, 2024</p> | <p>Please open the following link to see the MCPS things you should know.’<br/> <a href="#">Things to Know</a></p>  |
| <p>Annual Environmental Compliance Information</p>        | <p>Please see attached the Asbestos Management Plan Notification and the Integrated Pest Management Notification.<br/> <a href="#">Non-Asbestos Notification.ENG</a><br/> <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<br/> <b>Away All Day Policy</b></p>         | <p><b>Cell phones:</b><br/> <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>Parent Information for ParentVUE</p>                   | <p>One page of information for Parent Vue, CEP, counseling and school websites.<br/> <a href="#">English</a><br/> <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><br/> <a href="#">How to activate my ParentVUE account</a></p>   |

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| School Calendar for 2024-2025               | <a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY25</a><br><a href="#">Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25</a>   |
| 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><br/> <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> <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.<br/> <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.</p> <p><i>*Parents/Guardians can access myMCPS Classroom via ParentVUE</i></p>  |

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