



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

September 21, 2025

Dear Odessa Shannon Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. Please make sure that you are registered for ParentVue to access information about your child's academic progress, attendance, and to ensure you are receiving our weekly messages via Synergy. Additionally, you can find information about Odessa Shannon happenings on our school webpage. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms/>

### **Non Instructional Day**

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025** is a non instructional day for students and teachers, there will be no school.

### **Family Life Unit Meeting**

There will be a family life unit meeting on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025** from 5:30-6:30 PM in the cafeteria for parents of 7th and 8th grade students. Parents of 7th and 8th grade students are invited to attend an informational meeting for the Family life skills and human sexuality unit of the health education curriculum for 7th and 8th grade. During this meeting, parents will have the opportunity to hear about the topics to be discussed during class and review samples of materials and activities that will be used with the students during class.

### **Early Dismissal**

**Friday, September 26, 2025** will be an early release day. Students will be released at 12:30 PM.

### **Bus Safety Reminder**

Please take a moment to read the following important information on bus safety. It is essential that all students understand and follow the safety guidelines to ensure a safe and respectful ride for everyone.

**Parents:** Please help us by reminding your child about the importance of staying seated, keeping voices low, following the driver's instructions, and respecting others while on the bus. Working together, we can ensure a safe and positive experience for all students. Please read the following information on bus safety. [Bus Safety Information. ENG](#)

### **Title I Requirements for Staff Credentials and Licensure**

Our school is fortunate to receive supplemental funding through Title I, a federal grant program for schools that serve communities with high numbers of students who are directly certified for free meals. The federal legislation that establishes Title I regulations is known as the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA). ESSA requires Montgomery County Public Schools to inform you that you have the right to request information about the professional licensure qualifications of your child's teacher, long-term substitute teacher, or paraeducator.

If you wish to request licensure information about your child's teacher, paraeducator, or long-term substitute teacher, please submit a written request to the principal at your school. Your written inquiry may include information about the following qualifications:

- Degree status and subject area of licensure.
- State of Maryland licensure status, including conditional licensure status.

- Qualifications of paraeducators or long-term substitute teachers who may be working with your student.

Your request will be forwarded to the Department of Talent Acquisition, and you will receive a written response from that office within thirty (30) business days. Please contact the principal if you have any questions.

### **ATSI at OSMS**

Odessa Shannon Middle School was identified for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for the 2025–2026 school year. This identification lasts for three years, and we are now in our third year. Please read the attached letter for more information. [Principal ATSI Parent Notification. ENG](#)

### **Eighth Grade Parents**

If you are a parent of an eighth graders please open the following links regarding the DCC High School Open Houses and the NEC HS Information session. [2025 DCC BTSN Flyer Draft](#) [2025 NEC BTSN Flyer Draft](#)

**Please review the important information below regarding cell phones, chromebooks, and parent-school communication.** If you have any questions please contact the school by phone at (240) 740-4150.

Warmest Regards,

*Natasha H. Booms*

Dr. Natasha Booms  
Principal

### **Cell phones**

**Odessa Shannon has an *Away All Day* electronics policy.** We comply with the county expectations for cell phone usage in middle schools. We encourage students *not to bring* 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.**

### **Important Information for Parents/Guardians**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Information</b>
MCPS Things to Know	Please open the link below to read Things to Know for September 18, 2025 from MCPS. <a href="#">Things to Know.ENG</a>
Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB Afterschool	The Montgomery County Recreation Center will sponsor Excel Beyond the Bell this school year beginning <i>Monday, September 29th-Thursday, December 18th</i> . Registration is on a first come first serve basis, so please be sure to

Activity)	<p>register ASAP and return it to the main office. Students are expected to adhere to EBB/Odessa Shannon school expectations while participating in EBB. 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. OSMS. <a href="#">Afterschool bus stops EBB Fall Session</a></p>
<p>English Classes for Parents <b>September 29, 2025</b></p>	<p>Want to improve your ability to speak/read English? OSMS has partnered with JSSA to offer several adult English classes, which start the week of Sept 29, 2025, so you need to register by this Monday 9.22.25 to be sure you get a placement in a course.</p> <p><b><u>OSMS BASIC English for Adults:</u></b> Our OSMS VIRTUAL English class will be at the BASIC level (little to no English) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8:30pm. For students enrolling in OSMS's BASIC online class, click on the link below and then "register now" then "Create a new account". Use the password 'jssa1234' and select "cash" at the end before submitting. This is a FREE class and does NOT require a placement test. <a href="https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0053-0030-8bbb543da0bc4df980b05b0ed5655701">https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0053-0030-8bbb543da0bc4df980b05b0ed5655701</a> or <b><u>MCPS Beginner +, Intermediate or higher English Classes for Adults:</u></b> If you want to enroll in a higher English level class than BASIC, you must take an English placement test. There is one remaining opportunity for the placement test/registration: Monday, Sept 22, IN-PERSON, 5-7pm at Harriet Tubman Elementary School</p>
<p>Bus Information Can be found in the ParentVue application</p>	<p>Bus Schedules Schedules with bus stop and time information can be found on ParentVue under the student information tab. <a href="#">Flier for Bus Routes</a>   <a href="#">Boletin de Rutas de Buses</a> <a href="#">Bus Letter.ENG</a>   <a href="#">Bus Letter.SPA</a> 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>One Page Parent Information for ParentVue, reduced meals, counseling and school website</p>	<p>We have compiled in one page for your convenience information for Parent Vue, Free and reduced meals, 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="#">Odessa Shannon MS School website</a></p>
<p>Bell Times and School Attendance</p>	<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 8:10 a.m.-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 <b>next day or maximum of 3 days after the absence in order to adjust the absence to excused.</b></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>
<p>Cafeteria (Breakfast and Lunch) Information</p>	<p>OSMS is one of the schools that participate in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) which means that every enrolled 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 to fill out 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>
<p>ParentVue Activation</p>	<p><b><u>ParentVue and Sunday Messages</u></b></p> <p>Parents and guardians, please remember that this is your school community and we welcome your involvement. Please sign up for ParentVue, this is your way to access your student's grades/schedules, receive information from teachers, hear our community messages, and a plethora of other information from the school. Families will continue to receive messages on Sunday evenings to keep you updated on school wide information. We will also continue to post updated information from the school and the county to our website, <a href="https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms/">https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms/</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">How to activate my ParentVUE account</a> <a href="#">Cómo activar su cuenta de ParentVue. SPA</a></p>
	<p><b>Join the OSMS PTSA Where Every Voice Matters!</b></p> <p>We are more than just meetings and fundraisers, we are a vibrant community of parents, guardians, teachers, and students working together to make our school the best it can be. Whether you have five minutes or five hours, your involvement makes a difference. From planning events to sharing ideas, or</p>

Join the OSMS PTSA Where Every Voice Matters!	<p>simply joining to stay connected, there is a place for everyone at the PTSA table.</p> <p>Sign up today at <a href="https://osmspta.givebacks.com/shop">osmspta.givebacks.com/shop</a>. To learn more about the OSMS PTSA including how to help, and our monthly meeting schedule, check out <a href="https://osmspta.givebacks.com">osmspta.givebacks.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Join the PTSA!</b> Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information. Please see detailed information about our PTSA on the following page.</p> <p><b>Unlock Learning and Support OSMS PTSA</b> Thinking about Kumon for your child? Now's the perfect time to jump in!</p> <p>Use referral code 3n3pu when you sign up and enjoy \$25 off your registration fee. Plus, your enrollment helps support the OSMS PTSA, a win for your student and our school community.</p> <p>Get Started with a Free Assessment now and find your nearest Kumon Center: <a href="https://kumon.com/locations">kumon.com/locations</a></p>
Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)	<p>The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment is below for this school year.</p> <p><a href="#">Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment.ENG</a> <a href="#">Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment. SPA</a></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>
MCPS Grading Policy Updates	<p><b>Montgomery County Public Schools has updated its policies on Grading and Reporting, Curriculum Transparency, Emergency Preparedness, and the Student Code of Conduct.</b> These topics will be reviewed with our students and families throughout the year. Please click the link below to access detailed information on each of the policies.</p> <p>Click for information: <a href="#">Updated MCPS Policies regarding Grading and Reporting, Curriculum Transparency, Emergency Preparedness and Student Code of Conduct.</a></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 will be assigned a locker during the first week of school. Please note that backpacks and other bags need to fit within the locker space because students will not be allowed to carry bags to class. In many cases a luggage</p>

	style bag with wheels and a pull handle will not fit, so please save your receipts in case a newly purchased bag needs to be returned.
School Calendar for 2025-2026	<a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY26</a>
Important Information to Know from MCPS	Please read the following information from MCPS for this week.  <a href="#">MCPS Important Information</a>