



Odessa Shannon Middle School
11800 Monticello Ave. Silver Spring MD 20902
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September 28, 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

Thursday, October 2, 2025 is a non instructional day for students and teachers, there will be no school.

MCPS updated Standard Response Protocol for Emergencies

Please take a moment to review the information regarding the district's [updated Standard Response Protocol](#) for emergencies. A copy of the ["Quick Guide"](#) outlining how staff, students, and parents/guardians should respond to different emergency situations was sent home with every student on Monday, September 22, 2025.

Odessa Shannon Afterschool Activities and Sports Activities

After-school activities have begun! Please connect with your child's activity sponsor or coach to confirm the meeting days for activities, practices, and sporting events. A hot snack (e.g., pizza, chicken nuggets) will be provided to students before activities begin, and attendance will be taken by sponsors for all activities. Students may ride the 4:30 p.m. activity bus home; however, please note that activity bus stop locations differ from students' regular bus stops, and a list of [Evening Activity Bus Stops](#) is available for reference.

EBB After-School Programs Begin Monday, September 29, 2025

Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB) at Odessa Shannon Middle School will begin on **Monday, September 29, 2025** **Students must be registered for an activity to participate.** Parents were notified via email to confirm registration. Students will receive a snack before activities begin and will take the 5:30 p.m. activity bus home. Please note that activity bus stops differ from regular bus stops. Students must adhere to all school and bus expectations to participate in EBB. Please note that activity bus stop locations differ from students' regular bus stops, and a list of [Evening Activity Bus Stop](#) is available for reference.

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. This includes after school activity buses. [Bus Safety Information. 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](#)

Upcoming Events

Hispanic Heritage Festival Celebration, Thursday, October 9, 2025

We are excited to invite you and your family to celebrate at our **Hispanic Heritage Festival** on **Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at Odessa Shannon Middle School! This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, learn, and celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of Hispanic heritage. [Hispanic Heritage Festival Flier](#).

How can you participate?

1. **Bring a Dish:** We encourage families to share their favorite traditional foods to help make the event a delicious celebration of cultural diversity. Whether it's a family recipe or a popular dish, we would love to have you contribute!
2. **Student Participation and SSL Hours:** Students can actively participate in the event by helping with setup, serving food, or even sharing performances or cultural presentations. Students will earn **Student Service Learning (SSL) hours** for their participation, so it's a great way to get involved while contributing to the community.

We look forward to seeing you at this vibrant celebration! Let's come together to honor and enjoy the traditions, food, and contributions of the Hispanic community. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please reach out to elisa.m.earleyhidalgo@mcpsmd.net.

PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council Meeting, Wednesday October 14, 2025

We will have our first PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council Meeting on October 14, 2025. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. A light dinner will be served. This meeting is in person and will take place in the cafe. We will have a virtual option for families that cannot attend the meeting in person. See zoom information below:

Meeting ID: 830 8484 5085

Passcode: OSMS

PTSA Chipotle Fundraiser

Come support the OSMS PTSA! Our PTSA will be sponsoring a Chipotle fundraiser to raise money for student activities. The fundraiser takes place on **Monday, October 20 from 4 pm-8 pm**. For online orders, customers can use the following code: CHT89TP. Please open the attached flier for the address and detailed information. [Chipotle flier. ENG](#)

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

Topic	Information
MCPS Things to Know	Please open the link below to read Things to Know for September 25, 2025 from MCPS. Things to Know.ENG
Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB Afterschool Activity)	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 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. Afterschool bus stops EBB Fall Session
English Classes for Parents September 29, 2025	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. <u>OSMS BASIC English for Adults:</u> 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. https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0053-0030-8bbb543da0bc4df980b05b0ed5655701 or <u>MCPS Beginner +, Intermediate or higher English Classes for Adults:</u> If you want to enroll in a higher English level class than BASIC, you must

	<p>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. Flier for Bus Routes Boletín de Rutas de Buses Bus Letter.ENG Bus Letter.SPA</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>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. English Spanish</p> <p>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. Odessa Shannon MS School website</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 8:10 a.m.-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 or maximum of 3 days after the 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>
<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</p>

	<p>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>
ParentVue Activation	<p><u>ParentVue and Sunday Messages</u></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, https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms/.</p> <p>How to activate my ParentVUE account Cómo activar su cuenta de ParentVue. SPA</p>
Join the OSMS PTSA Where Every Voice Matters!	<p>Join the OSMS PTSA Where Every Voice Matters!</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 simply joining to stay connected, there is a place for everyone at the PTSA table..</p> <p>Sign up today at osmspta.givebacks.com/shop. To learn more about the OSMS PTSA including how to help, and our monthly meeting schedule, check out osmspta.givebacks.com.</p> <p><u>Join the PTSA!</u> Click here for more information. Please see detailed information about our PTSA on the following page.</p> <p>Unlock Learning and Support OSMS PTSA</p> <p>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: kumon.com/locations</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>Montgomery County Public Schools has updated its policies on Grading and Reporting, Curriculum Transparency, Emergency Preparedness,</p>

	<p>and the Student Code of Conduct. 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: Updated MCPS Policies regarding Grading and Reporting, Curriculum Transparency, Emergency Preparedness and Student Code of Conduct.</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 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 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.</p>
School Calendar for 2025-2026	<p>Traditional School Calendar SY26</p>