



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

November 16, 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/>.

### **First Session of Outdoor Education**

Sixth-grade students who are registered for the first session of Outdoor Education will attend from November 17–19, 2025. This session is an overnight session, and students must be registered in advance to participate.

### **Thanksgiving Meals**

OSMS Families, Please come to our FREE Thanksgiving Meal Market on Thursday, Nov 20, from 3:30 to 5pm at OSMS. Families in need can pick up fresh groceries and a \$10-20 gift card to a grocery store to get your Thanksgiving protein of choice. Bring your own grocery bags. The line will be inside the school for your comfort. Supplies should last for about 100 families in need. See the flyer for more details. [Thanksgiving Meal Flyer](#)

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences Monday, November 24, 2025**

Our Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on **Monday, November 24, 2025** From **4:00 PM – 6:30 PM** in the **cafeteria**, Families may visit and speak with the teachers of their choice regarding their child's progress. The format of the conferences will be Arena Style, allowing families to move freely between teachers and speak with those they wish to connect with regarding their child's progress.

**Team Conferences:** Grade-level team leaders will reach out to families directly to schedule a designated conference time.

Please see the linked fliers for more information. If you are unable to attend conferences, please reach out directly to your child's teachers.

[Parent-Teacher Conference Flyer ENG](#)

[Parent-Teacher Conference Flyer SPANISH](#)

We look forward to partnering with our families and engaging in meaningful conversations to support student success!

### **Title 1 Advisory Council Meeting**

Have you ever wondered how Title I schools involve families in learning? Join the Family Advisory Council to be a part of the committee to help shape district-level family engagement, share your ideas, and provide feedback on programs that support student success! We want YOU to be a part of the team! You are invited to participate in the first 2025-2026 Title I Family Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 from 5-6 p.m.

This meeting will be held via Zoom. Meeting code and password are included below. Interpretation services will be provided. We look forward to working with you.

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/97883285722?pwd=OXhHSjBaaHlsa29zSXpuUGhWRUxaQT09>

Meeting ID: 978 8328 5722

Passcode: school

### **Free Flu Vaccines**

Read the following flier to get information on where to get your free flu vaccine. [Flier for Free Flu Vaccine](#)

### **Title 1 School Parent Compact**

Attached, please find our Title I Parent Compact document. The Parent Compact outlines the partnership and shared responsibilities between school staff, parents, and students. Research has shown that a school's success is enhanced by a clear collaboration between families and the school to ensure student success. This is a partnership in which we invite you and your child(ren) to review the attached compact and discuss it together. The Title I office hopes you find the compact informative and helpful in supporting your child's learning and school experience. [Odessa Shannon SY26 School Parent Compact](#)

### **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](#)

### **Looking Ahead:**

*The PTSA needs you! Volunteers needed for chaperoning, snacks, set up and clean up for the PTSA Sneaker Ball on Friday, December 5, 2025 from 3:30-6 PM. [Sign up to Volunteer](#)*  
*Questions? Email [odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com)*

**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,

*Dr. Natasha H. 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 November 13, 2025 from MCPS. <a href="#">Things to Know. ENG</a>
ECA's and Afterschool Sports at OSMS	<p><b>Odessa Shannon Afterschool Activities and Sports Activities</b></p> <p>After-school activities have begun! Please open the <a href="#">link</a> to see what is available at OSMS. 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 <a href="#">Evening Activity Bus Stops</a> is available for reference.</p>
The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County at OSMS	<p><b>The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (CRCMC)</b>, is excited to again be offering a school based conflict resolution program this year. Staff and volunteers from the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, will conduct this exciting program here at Odessa Shannon MS one day a week.</p> <p>The purpose of this school based conflict resolution program is to provide the students and staff of Odessa Shannon MS the opportunity to address and resolve student disputes with an “on-site” conflict resolution professional.</p> <p>The program will empower students to use the on-site Conflict Resolution Office to address and resolve disputes in constructive ways supporting a positive and safe learning environment. Additionally students will practice restorative discipline principles that focus on: strengthening relationships, collaborative problem-solving, and student accountability.</p> <p>This on-site school-based Conflict Resolution Program will be housed in the counseling office. The office will be staffed by AmeriCorps and Volunteers with the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County who will serve as a neutral person to accept concerns on behalf of students, teachers, and staff regarding student concerns. The position of the will be staffed by personnel from the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County and will provide individual conferencing, community conferencing, and mediation. <b>Please review, sign the letter below and return it to school if you do not wish for your child to participate in the program.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Conflict Resolution flier.bilingual</a>  <a href="#">Conflict Resolution Opt Out letter</a></p>
Bus Information Can be found in the ParentVue application	<p>Bus Schedules Schedules with bus stop and time information can be found on ParentVue under the student information tab.</p> <p><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></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.</p> <p><a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a></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.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><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>Join the OSMS PTSA Where Every Voice Matters!</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 simply joining to stay connected, there is a place for everyone at the PTSA table..</p> <p>Sign up today at <a href="http://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="http://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>

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 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><a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY26</a></p>