



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

November 9, 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/>.

Veterans Day- November 11, 2025

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize, honor, and remember all members of our Odessa Shannon Middle School community who have served in the armed forces. We thank you for your service.

Open House/Pastries for Parents

On **Tuesday, November 11, 2025**, we will host Pastries for Parents! Please join us for pastries and coffee at 8:00 AM in the Media Center, then walk your child to their first-period class. We will share information on how to support your child's academic progress in middle school. Please read the [flier](#) here.

PTSA Meeting

We will have our monthly PTSA meeting on **Tuesday, November 11, 2025** in the cafeteria beginning at 7 PM.

Report Cards

On **Wednesday, November 12, 2025** students will receive their first marking period report cards. 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.

Community Cafecito, Friday, November 14, 2025

Join us for our Parent Coffee Talk, affectionately known as **Community Cafecito**, held on the **2nd Friday of every month from 8:15 AM to 9:15 AM**. This is your perfect chance to connect informally with school staff and fellow parents. Grab a strong cup of coffee and some light breakfast snacks while you chat about the topics that matter most to your family and our community. It's a wonderful, relaxed way to build connections and share insights. We can't wait to see you there! [Community Cafecito flier](#)

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:

Session 1 for Outdoor Education for sixth graders will be November 17-19.

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 6, 2025 from MCPS. Things to Know. ENG
ECA's and Afterschool Sports at OSMS	Odessa Shannon Afterschool Activities and Sports Activities After-school activities have begun! Please open the link 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 Evening Activity Bus Stops is available for reference.

The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County at OSMS	The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (CRCMC), 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. 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. 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. 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. Please review, sign the letter below and return it to school if you do not wish for your child to participate in the program. Conflict Resolution flier.bilingual Conflict Resolution Opt Out letter
Bus Information Can be found in the ParentVue application	Bus Schedules Schedules with bus stop and time information can be found on ParentVue under the student information tab. Flier for Bus Routes Boletin de Rutas de Buses Bus Letter.ENG Bus Letter.SPA 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.
One Page Parent Information for ParentVue, reduced meals, counseling and school website	We have compiled in one page for your convenience information for Parent Vue, Free and reduced meals, counseling and school websites. English Spanish 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
Bell Times and School Attendance	Bell Schedule 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.

	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. 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	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> 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: 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.
Join the OSMS PTSA Where Every Voice Matters!	Join the OSMS PTSA Where Every Voice Matters! 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.. 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. <u>Join the PTSA!</u> Click here for more information. Please see detailed information about our PTSA on the following page.
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>
MCPS Grading Policy Updates	Montgomery County Public Schools has updated its policies on Grading and Reporting, Curriculum Transparency, Emergency Preparedness, 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. Click for information: Updated MCPS Policies regarding Grading and Reporting, Curriculum Transparency, Emergency Preparedness and Student Code of Conduct.

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 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.
School Calendar for 2025-2026	Traditional School Calendar SY26