



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

March 16, 2025

Dear Odessa Shannon Families,

We hope this message finds you well. As we embark on another week here at Odessa Shannon, we want to keep you informed about the latest school developments and important dates. Please review the events that are currently occurring at Odessa Shannon.

**Outdoor Education for 6th graders**

Attention 6th grade parents! Outdoor Education starts this week. Below are the dates for each session.

[For more information please visit our website](#) if you have any questions.

**Session 1: Last Names A-M / Sesión 1: Apellidos de A-M**

Monday, March 17th — Wednesday, March 19th

*Lunes, 17 de marzo — Miércoles, 19 de marzo*

**Session 2: Last Names N-Z / Sesión 2: Apellidos N-Z**

Wednesday, March 19th — Friday, March 21, 2025

*Miércoles, 19 de marzo — Viernes, 21 de marzo*

**Fresh Food Market at OSMS**

We are excited to share that OSMS will have its Fresh Food Market on **Monday, March 17, 2025**, from 3:30-5:00 PM. All families are encouraged to attend. The market will be held on the far right of the building next to the gym. Please bring your own grocery bags. See the flier for more information [Fresh Food Flier.ENG](#)

**Testing**

**The testing season for the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) will begin the week of March 17, 2025.** MCAP testing provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning and helps to hold all Maryland schools accountable to standards of instruction. All Maryland students are required to participate in these assessments. As always, students need to come to school each day ready to do their best. The state sets windows of dates in which testing must take place, so please make sure your students attend school regularly and arrive on time. The following provides the Odessa Shannon Middle School testing MCAP testing dates:

- **Maryland Integrated Science Assessments (MISA) (8th grade only)**  
**Maryland School Survey (6th - 8th grades) - March 17, 18, and 20**
- **MCAP ELA (6th - 8th grades) - April 28 - May 1**
- **MCAP Math (6th - 8th grades) - May 5 & 6**
- **MCAP Social Studies (8th grade only) - May 15 & 16**

**Advanced Orchestra Field Trip**

The Advanced Orchestra students will travel in the morning to the MCPS Orchestra Festival at Montgomery Blair High School on **Thursday, March 20, 2025**, to represent Odessa Shannon Middle School.

### **Volunteer Opportunity at the OSMS Book Fair**

The PTSA is excited to announce that the Odessa Shannon Middle School Book Fair is just around the corner! This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore new books, enhance their reading experience, and foster a love for literature.

To make this event a success, we are seeking parent volunteers to help with setup, assist students, and manage the sales during the fair. Your involvement will help create a fun and engaging environment for our students!

**Dates:** The week of March 24th

**Location:** Odessa Shannon Middle School Library

If you are available to volunteer or have any questions, please use the sign up using the link provided:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4AA8AE22AA8-55588810-odessa>

Thank you for supporting our students and the joy of reading!

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**

| Topic  | Information  |
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| MCPS Things to Know  | Here are a few things to know for Thursday, March 13, 2025. <a href="#">Things to Know. ENG</a>  |
| John F. Kennedy HS<br>Looking for a New<br>Principal<br><b>March 19-24</b> | John F. Kennedy High School is looking for a new principal and would like to invite the community to the upcoming meetings. Please read the attached form for details. <a href="#">JFK Principal Info. ENG</a>   |
| OSMS Afterschool and<br>Sports Activities                                  | We encourage students to get involved in their school community! Families should check in with your child's sponsor and coach for the meeting days of the activities, practices and sporting events, please see our <a href="#">afterschool offerings</a> here. A hot snack (for ex. pizza, chicken nuggets, etc.) will be provided to students prior to the activity starting. Students may ride the 4:30 PM activity bus home, please note that activity bus stop drop offs are not the same as students' normal bus stops. <a href="#">Evening Activity Bus Stops</a> . |

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| Attendance                          | <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 tardy/early departure or absent from school. The note <b>must</b> be received <b>within 3 days</b> of the return date to school. Notes received after that date will not be accepted.</p>   |
| Cellphones<br>Away All Day Policy   | <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> |
| Parent Information<br>for ParentVUE | <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>   |
| School Calendar for<br>2024-2025    | <p><a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY25</a><br/> <a href="#">Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25</a></p>  |
| Bus Schedules                       | <p>Schedules with bus stop and time information are located at the links below and on our website.<br/> 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.<br/> <a href="#">Bus Information ARRIVAL</a><br/> <a href="#">Bus Information DEPARTURE</a></p>  |
| Bell Times and School<br>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</p>   |

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|   | <p>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.<br/><i>*Parents/Guardians can access myMCPS Classroom via ParentVUE</i></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 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.</p>   |
| Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)   | <p>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>.</p>   |

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| <p>Sunday Message to the Community</p> | <p>During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through <i>Synergy email</i> and <i>Remind</i> about the upcoming events at OSMS and throughout the county. <b>Please make sure your information is up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails. .</b></p> |
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