



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

September 7, 2025

Dear Odessa Shannon Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that the school year is off to a positive start for your child. As we continue to build routines and engage in learning, we want to keep you informed about important updates, upcoming events, and school highlights.

Please ensure that you are registered for **ParentVue** to access your child's academic progress, attendance, and to receive our weekly messages via Synergy. Additionally, information about happenings at Odessa Shannon can always be found on our school webpage.

### **OSMS Back to School Meet and Greet**

OSMS will have our Back To School Night on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025 from 5:30PM- 8:15 PM**. This is the opportunity to meet the teachers, counselors, and get any necessary information you may need for your child's academic success. [BTS Meet and Greet.bilingual](#)

**5:30PM-6:30PM** Community Fair - Meet our community partners!

**6:30PM-8:15PM** Meet your child's teachers!

Please click on the flier above for more information.

### **Sports Team Tryouts**

**Sports tryouts for 7th and 8th-grade students will begin on September 9, 2025.** All students trying out for a sport must have a physical. Only students participating in tryouts will have access to the activity bus this week. The activity buses will depart from Odessa Shannon at 4:30 PM. Please note that activity bus stops differ from regular bus stops. Staff will assist students in locating their drop-off points after tryouts.

**Please find detailed information [here](#) about sports team tryouts. [Afterschool bus stops](#)**

### **Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB) Afterschool Activities**

The Montgomery County Recreation Center will sponsor Excel Beyond the Bell this school year beginning *Monday, September 29th-Thursday, December 18th*. 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](#)

### **8th Grade Bake Sale**

The PTSA is hosting a Bake Sale during the Back to School Night on September 10, 2025. PTSA is asking for donations (pre-packaged or store bought). Please see the link for more details.

[Bake Sale Information](#)

### **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](#)  
[2025 NEC BTSN Flyer Draft](#)

### **Ski Masks**

This is a reminder that **ski masks should not be worn in school**, whether or not a student's face is covered. For safety and security reasons, students should not wear ski masks during the school day. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe and positive school environment.

### **MCPS 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](#)

**Join the PTSA!** Click [here](#) for more information. Please see detailed information about our PTSA on the following page.

**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

### **School information**

Students may enter the building at 7:50 AM, classes begin exactly at 8:15 AM. We have a parking lot and traffic/bus pattern. Please follow the signs and staff members that are directing traffic to keep everyone safe. Please find the bus schedules listed in the information grid below.

### **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.**

### **ParentVue and Sunday Messages**

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/>.

### **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 4, 2025 from MCPS. <a href="#">MCPS Things to know</a>
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. <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.
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. <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>
Bell Times and School Attendance	<a href="#">Bell Schedule</a>  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>  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.  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>
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

	<p>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>
ParentVue Activation	<p>Please take the time to register for ParentVue. This school year, Synergy and ParentVUE will be the primary home-to-school communication vehicles for schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling, log into myMCPS Classroom, and more.</p> <p><a href="#">How to activate my ParentVUE account</a>  <a href="#">Cómo activar su cuenta de ParentVue. SPA</a></p>
Join the OSMS PTSA Where Every Voice Matters!	<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>Unlock Learning and Support OSMS PTSA</b></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: <a href="http://kumon.com/locations">kumon.com/locations</a></p>
Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy	<p>The Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy is below for this school year. If you wish to fill it out please <b>send it back to the school by Friday, September 12, 2025.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy.ENG</a>  <a href="#">Annual Notice for Directory Information and Student Privacy. SPA</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>

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 <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.
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	<a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY26</a>
Kennedy Cluster Block Party <b>Saturday, September 13, 2025</b>	<p>The Kennedy Cluster will be hosting a block party on Saturday, September 13, 2025 from 10-12 PM at John F. Kennedy HS located at 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902.</p> <p>Please read the flier below for more information.</p> <p><a href="#">Cluster Block Party flier.bilingual</a></p>