



Odessa Shannon Middle School
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May 4, 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.

A BIG Thank you!

We want to thank the Odessa Shannon school community for making our Curriculum and International Night a wonderful success! We are so grateful to everyone who attended, donated delicious food, and helped showcase the rich diversity of our school. A special thank you to our amazing students whose performances and presentations made the evening truly memorable. We couldn't have done it without you!

Staff Appreciation Week May 5-9, 2025

This week, we are celebrating our incredible staff who go above and beyond every day to support our students. We encourage all parents to remind their children to say a simple **"thank you"** to a staff member who has made a positive impact—it truly means a lot.

Our PTSA is also sponsoring **Power Up Stations** to provide snacks and refreshments for staff throughout the week. If you would like to contribute, donations can be dropped off at the front office. Please label all items with **"PTSA."** We need your support to make this a success. Please use the signup genius link to support our efforts to celebrate OSMS staff for Staff Appreciation Week! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4AA8AE22AA8-56186526-osms#/> **Thank you for helping us show our staff how much they are appreciated!**

PTSA Information for Parents

The PTSA is excited to share some *fun and important events* coming up at our school! 🎉 Be sure to check out the flyer for all the details — you won't want to miss what's in store! Please note: Staff Appreciation Week is May 5-May 9. We need your support to make this a success. We also invite you to join us for our next **PTSA Meeting on Tuesday, May 13**, where we'll be holding elections for next year's PTSA officers. It's a great chance to get involved, stay connected, and help shape the future of our school community. Let's keep the momentum going — we can't wait to see you there! [PTSA Flier](#).

PTSA Penny Race Fundraiser

Support the Penny Race fundraiser to help the OSMS PTSA! Students have been provided with materials to collect loose change—pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills—which they will turn in through their homeroom each day. Student volunteers will count donations daily, and the homeroom that raises the most by the end of May will win a fun ice cream party!

Community Cafecito

Please join us for Community Cafecito to have the opportunity to meet staff and other OSMS families in a friendly atmosphere. We will meet on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025** from 8:10 to 9:10 AM in the media center. All are welcome to attend. Coffee and refreshment will be provided.

Important Reminder: Leave Water Guns at Home

For the safety of all students and staff, water guns and similar toys should not be brought to school. These items can create confusion, pose safety risks, and cause unnecessary distractions from learning. Let's work together to keep our school environment focused, safe, and respectful for everyone. Please make sure your child is not bringing these items to school. Please see the MCPS policy on water guns here [ENG/SPA](#).

Upcoming Career Day

We are looking for professionals from all fields to inspire the next generation at Odessa Shannon's Career Day. Please read the flier attached for more information. [Career Day flier. ENG](#)

MCPS- Mental Health Topics

Montgomery County Public Schools remains committed to sharing information and resources about important mental health topics. Please take a moment to read the attached *Signs of Suicide (SOS)* Parent Letter and SOS Parent Training materials. [SOS Parent Letter. ENG](#)

The *Signs of Suicide (SOS)* lessons are part of a nationally recognized program that teaches students how to identify warning signs of depression and suicide in themselves and others. The lessons emphasize the importance of seeking help and provide students with practical steps using the ACT approach: Acknowledge, Care, and Tell a trusted adult.

Summer School

Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning (ELO SAIL) is a summer program that will be taking place at Odessa Shannon MS. The program dates are July 7 - August 1, 2025, and the student's day will last 4.5 hours. Students will engage in literacy and mathematics instruction, as well as hands-on, well-rounded, areas such as enriching science, social studies, and social-emotional learning. Breakfast, Lunch, and transportation will be provided! **Please see the school website for more information about registration!**

Use the form linked here if you are having difficulty with Parentvue. [Google Form](#)

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
MCPS Things to Know	Here are a few things to know for Thursday, May 1, 2025. Things to Know. ENG
Distinguished Service to Education Honors May 6, 2025	Please read the attached link for information on the Distinguished Service to Education Honors. Education Honors. ENG
John F. Kennedy Block Party May 17, 2025	John F. Kennedy HS will host a community Block Party on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Please read the attached flier for more information. JFK HS Block Party.bilingual . If you would like to volunteer, open the following link. Volunteer flier. ENG
OSMS Afterschool and 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 afterschool offerings 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. Evening Activity Bus Stops .
Attendance	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 must be received within 3 days of the return date to school. Notes received after that date will not be accepted.
Cellphones Away All Day Policy	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 <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. 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.
Parent Information for ParentVUE	One page of information for Parent Vue, CEP, 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. WEBSITE How to activate my ParentVUE account
School Calendar for 2024-2025	Traditional School Calendar SY25 Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25
Bus Schedules	<p>Schedules with bus stop and time information are located at the links below and on our website.</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>Bus Information ARRIVAL Bus Information DEPARTURE</p>
Bell Times and School Attendance	<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 8:10am-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 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. 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>
Cafeteria (Breakfast and Lunch) Information	<p>Each 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 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</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.</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 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 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.
Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)	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: odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com .
Sunday Message to the Community	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. Please make sure your information is up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails. .