



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

June 8, 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.

**Your voice matters!**

Please take the School Climate Survey. A detailed information letter is available here in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Families please [Click here to take the survey](#). Students will have the opportunity to take the survey during the school day prior to the deadline. Thank you in advance for your feedback!

**Eighth Grade End of Year information**

The 8th grade promotion ceremony will take place on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025**. The promotion will be held at John F. Kennedy High School and will begin at 9 AM. **Students are required to be at JFK no later than 8:30 AM. Students will receive their promotion tickets on June 9, 2025 following promotion practice (this includes extra ticket requests).**

The Eighth grade information has been shared with students and families and is posted on the school webpage. Please review the [8th Grade End of Year Letter](#) for student information and expectations for the remainder of the year.

**7th Grade Picnic**

Seventh grade students will participate in a walking field trip to Wheaton Regional Park on Thursday, June 12, 2025 from 12:30-2:30 PM. The cost of the field is \$5 and students must turn in a signed permission slip to attend. Please reach out to 7th grade team leaders for more information.

**Early dismissal for Students**

**Friday, June 13, Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17, 2025 will be early dismissal days for students.** All students will be dismissed at 12:30 PM. There are no after school activities on these days.

**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 see information about the MCPS Boundary Study and Academic Programs Analysis Survey below.**

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, June 5, 2025. <a href="#">Things to Know. ENG</a>
Additional Boundary Study Engagement Sessions Soon  (Sessions will include maps with initial boundary options and a tool to use your home address to discover any changes to school assignments.)	<p>In case you missed it, MCPS will be hosting additional boundary study engagement sessions.</p> <p>We invite you to participate in the upcoming engagement sessions focused on the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School, the opening of Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School. These sessions will cover the initial options for each study and share how potential changes may affect families with middle and high school students beginning in the 2027 school year.</p> <p>There are multiple dates and ways to engage in these sessions. For more information, dates and locations, visit the boundary study website at <a href="https://mcpsmd.info/BoundaryStudy">mcpsmd.info/BoundaryStudy</a>.</p> <p>Project staff will share the process and the data that explain the formulation of these initial options. <b>Note:</b> Elementary school assignments do not change as part of this study.</p>
RoboCamp and FalconCamp Information	<p>RoboCamps is a week-long in-person initiative at Poolesville Self Defense that teaches core STEM skills as campers learn how to design, build, and program a robot using pre-designed VEX IQ kits. This program culminates in a final competition so students can demonstrate their programming proficiency and concept understanding while competing for special prizes. Please read the following for more details. <a href="#">RoboCamps. flier</a></p> <p>FalconCamps is a week-long online initiative that teaches mechanical design and/or programming in the context of competitive robotics, covering technical skills such as computer-aided design or object-oriented programming. This program prepares students to join a competitive robotics team and encourages them to pursue a future in STEM. Please read the following for more details. <a href="#">FalconCamps flier</a></p>
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

	<p>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>
<p>Cellphones Away All Day Policy</p>	<p><b>Cell phones:</b> <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>
<p>Parent Information for ParentVUE</p>	<p>One page of information for Parent Vue, CEP, 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="#">WEBSITE</a>  <a href="#">How to activate my ParentVUE account</a></p>
<p>School Calendar for 2024-2025</p>	<p><a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY25</a>  <a href="#">Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25</a></p>
<p>Bus Schedules</p>	<p>Schedules with bus stop and time information are located at the links below and on our website.  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.  <a href="#">Bus Information ARRIVAL</a>  <a href="#">Bus Information DEPARTURE</a></p>
<p>Bell Times</p>	<p><a href="#">Bell Schedule</a>  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 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>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: <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.</p> <p><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>
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>
Sunday Message to the Community	<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>