



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

August 5, 2025

Dear Odessa Shannon Students and Families:

I hope this message finds you all safe, well, and enjoying the summer. On behalf of the administrative team and our whole staff, I want to welcome all of our new and returning families to Odessa Shannon Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year. We are elated to welcome our students to another year of academic excellence!

In the upcoming school year, our mission is to continue to foster an inclusive and caring environment where all students feel seen, supported, and challenged to grow academically and personally. We will bring this mission to life by building strong relationships, designing engaging lessons, establishing consistent routines, and communicating clear expectations. As part of this work, we will continue to strengthen our commitment to character education by supporting students' social and emotional growth through restorative approaches. Our daily morning advisory period will provide a dedicated time to enhance student leadership through community circles, wellness activities, and mindfulness lessons. Our staff has been working diligently this summer to ensure that students receive meaningful, engaging, and enriching learning experiences throughout the year.

We will hold our annual **Wolfpack Fair on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 from 4-6pm**. Please come out and meet staff members and find out what community resources are available to our families. We welcome all families to attend! [Wolfpack Fair Flier](#)

Student Transition Day

On Monday, August 25, 2025, Odessa Shannon Middle School will have Student Transition Day. *It is a non-instructional, full day for students entering Grades K, 6, and 9, as well as students who are new to a school or to MCPS.* We welcome our 6th grade students and students new to Odessa Shannon on this day. [Please see information on transition day here.](#)

First Day of School

Our first official day of school is on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Please feel free to join the Odessa Shannon Middle School staff as we cheer students on as they enter the building from 7:50am to 8:00am. Please park in the school parking lot if you wish to participate.

MCPS Cell Phone Policy

In alignment with county policy, Odessa Shannon Middle School will continue to follow the MCPS expectations for cell phone usage in middle schools this school year. We strongly encourage students **not** to bring cell phones or other electronic devices to school. However, if a student must bring a phone, it must **remain "Away All Day."**

Cell phones are **not permitted** for use during class, in hallways, or at lunch. They may only be used **before and after school**. Please note that the school is **not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or other electronic devices**. **If a device becomes a distraction, parents/guardians will be notified and asked to pick up the item from the school.**

Please sign up for ParentVue to receive weekly Sunday Messages:

Parents and guardians, this is your school community, and we welcome your involvement! Please sign up for **ParentVUE** to access your child's grades, schedules, teacher updates, and school messages. Families

will continue receiving Sunday evening updates and can also find the latest school and county information on our website: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms/>.

As we prepare to welcome students on **Tuesday, August 26, 2025**, we invite you to review the following pages for important information, including the [student school supply list](#), to help your family get ready for the new school year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school at **(240) 740-4150**.

We look forward to partnering with you for a successful and exciting school year at Odessa Shannon Middle School!

Please enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Natasha H. Booms

Dr. Natasha H. Booms

Principal at Odessa Shannon MS

Odessa Shannon Middle School is organized as follows:

ADMINISTRATION	Dr. Natasha H. Booms, Principal Mr. Kerry Highsmith, Assistant Principal Mr. Maxwell P. Johnston, Assistant Principal
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Grade Level	Team Leaders	Administrator(s)	Counselor(s)
6	Ms. Mary Defrehn Mr. Henryck Hernandez	Mr. Highsmith	Mr. Grant
7	Mr. Adam Howard Ms. Rebecca Burtram	Mr. Johnston	TBD
8	Ms. Katherine Combs Ms. Bronwyn Coltrane	Mr. Highsmith (A-L) Mr. Johnston (M-Z)	Ms. Qureshi
6-8 Resource Counselor ELD 1/2	Grade Level Administrator	Grade Level Team Leader	Ms. Bauer

Student Support/ Alt 1	Mr. Adam Howard	Grade Level Administrator	Grade Level Counselor
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Office Contact Information	
Main Office	240-740-4150
Counseling Office/Registrar	240-740-4160
Cafeteria	240-740-4154
Health Room	240-740-4152
Fax	301-649-2430

Odessa Shannon Middle School's Website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms>

Important Information for Parents/Guardians

Topic	Information
Parent Information for ParentVUE	<p>We have compiled in one page for your convenience information for Parent Vue, Free and reduced meals, counseling and school websites.</p> <p>English Spanish</p> <p>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</p>
School Calendar for 2025-2026	Traditional School Calendar SY26
Bus Schedules	Schedules with bus stop and time information will be shared by transportation prior to the first day of school.
OSMS WolfPack Fair August 20, 2025 4-6PM	<p>We will hold our second annual Wolfpack Community Fair on August 20, 2025 from 4-6pm. Please come out and meet staff members and find out what resources are available to our families. Please see the flier for more information.</p> <p>Wolfpack Fair Flier</p>
Student Transition Day August 25, 2025	<p>On Monday, August 25, 2025, MCPS will hold the first Student Transition Day. It will be a non-instructional, full day for students entering Grades K, 6, and 9, as well as students who are new to a school or to MCPS.</p> <p>Students will be picked up from their assigned bus stops at their regular school times. Students will ride their assigned bus home. We encourage all students new to Odessa Shannon Middle School to attend this orientation so they can meet their</p>

	teachers, learn the layout of the school building, and get a head start on the school year.
First Day of School August 26, 2025	The first official day of school is on Tuesday, August 26, 2025.
OSMS Back to School Night September 10, 2025	OSMS will have our Back To School Night on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 from 6:30- 8 PM . This is the opportunity to meet the teachers, counselors, and get any necessary information you may need for your child's academic success.
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. Yohana 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.</p> <p>Students are not supervised in the building until 7:50 a.m., therefore 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>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.</p> <p><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 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</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. Synergy and ParentVUE will be the primary home-to-school communication platforms used to share information about grades, attendance, schedules, access to myMCPS Classroom, and more.</p> <p>Video: How to activate my ParentVUE account. ENG</p> <p>Cómo activar su cuenta de ParentVue. SPA</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>
Immunizations	<p>All students' immunization records must be updated. Please make sure your child's records are up to date and completed. Proper documentation of required immunizations must be received before you can enroll your child in school. Please follow up with the school nurse via email Mariam_SamelareSawadogo@mcpsmd.org if you have any questions about immunizations.</p>
School Supply List	<p>A suggested supply list is posted on our website and here. School Supply List SY25-26 Lista de Útiles. SPA</p>
Chrome books	<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 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.</p>
Cell Phone/Electronics Policy	<p>OSMS follows the county's expectations for cell phone non-use during the school day. Students are allowed to have cell phones at OSMS, however, it is highly encouraged they stay at home. If a student brings a cell phone/electronics of any kind to school to school, they must be turned off and out of sight during the instructional day, this includes lunch time and in the halls. We suggest and highly encourage students to keep phones/electronics at home or in their own locker during the school day. Please note that the school is NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT and a parent may have to pick up phones/electronics if they become an instructional distraction for the student.</p>
Lockers	<p>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.</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: odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com</p>
Sunday Message to the Community	<p>During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through Synergy and Remind about the upcoming events at OSMS and throughout the</p>

	county. Please make sure your email and number(s) are up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails. .
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