



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

April 7, 2024

Dear Odessa Shannon Middle School 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 Middle School.

Message from MCPS

Welcome back, everyone! As we return from spring break, it's crucial to address a pressing issue: the safety and well-being of every member of our school community. While overall students are following expectations, student behavior has been at the forefront in community discussions, among students and staff, and, lately, in the news. Discussions center on disrespect, student fights, bullying, and other inappropriate behavior.

Parents, staff, students and our community are concerned. So are we, and that's why we have been working to reset expectations around the [Montgomery County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct](#).

You may see the full message at this link:

<https://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/community/school-year-2023-2024/Community-message-20240325.html>

Upcoming solar eclipse

On Monday, April 8, Montgomery County will experience a partial solar eclipse beginning approximately 2:04 p.m. with maximum solar coverage at approximately 3:20 p.m.

People outside during this time should review this [information on eclipse safety](#), as looking directly at the sun may cause eye injury. Some children may need supervision and support in practicing eclipse safety. [Visit here for a one-pager with safety tips and family activities](#). Students and staff will be provided with special eclipse solar glasses for safety.

The third marking period ends on April 9, 2024. Please check in with your child to make sure that they are taking the opportunity to make up any missing assignments. You can review student grades directly on ParentVue. If you have any questions please reach out to your child's teachers via email.

No School for Students-Grading and Reporting Day

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 is a designated grading and reporting day for teachers, there will be no school for students. Marking period four, our final marking period for the school year, begins on April 11, 2024.

Summer School Registration

Odessa Shannon MS students who will be in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in summer programs at Odessa Shannon MS. Students will enhance their English Language Arts and Mathematics skills and make real-world connections through hands-on experiences in Science and Social Studies electives. Transportation, breakfast, and lunch are provided. Registration will open on ParentVue starting **April 16**,

2024. If you are interested in your child attending summer school please complete the [interest form here](#). Please make sure you are registered for ParentVue to enroll your child.

Report Cards Distribution

Report cards will be distributed on **April 18, 2024**.

Annual Curriculum/International Night

We will hold our annual curriculum/international night on **Thursday, April, 25, 2024**. We are encouraging all students and families to participate! If you are interested in signing up to bring a dish or participate please contact Ms. Ellisa Hidalgo at Ellisa_M_EarleyHidalgo@mcpsmd.org or Ms. Rivas-Hernandez at Michelle_J_Rivas@mcpsmd.org. [International Night Flier](#).

In partnership,

Dr. Natasha Booms

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Principal



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Odessa Shannon Middle School's Website:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms>

Important Information for Parents/Guardians April 7, 2024

Topic	Weekly Information
MCPS 5 Things to Know	Weekly message with at least five things to know sent to families, students, and staff. Find the latest edition here. 5 Things you need to know
Message for future Northwood High School Families	Please read the following message from the principal at Northwood HS for parents and students. Message from Dr. Garrick for Northwood HS families. ENG
Bus Safety	Reminder of Bus Safety This is a reminder that it is the job of our staff, students, bus operators, and families to ensure students safe travel to and from school. Parents and guardians can help further the safety of all students by making sure their children know the bus rules and etiquette that help ensure safe, orderly, and pleasant bus trips. Please review the bus safety guidelines with your child below: Community Bus Letter. ENG
Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours	What are SSL Hours? Why are SSL Hours important? How do you check how many SSL hours you have? Do you need SSL Hours? Please read the SSL presentation below for more information and Student Service Learning Opportunities. SSL Presentation
Remind Messages	We are excited to share that MCPS is transitioning to the use of Remind to engage with its school communities! If you're not already familiar with Remind , it's a communication tool that makes it easy to stay involved with your child's learning. Remind is free to use, and you'll be able to receive and send translated messages on any device - even a simple text message from your mobile phone!

	Remind Information/Sign Up for Parents
Yearbooks On Sale	<p>Don't you want to keep memories of your time spent at OSMS? If so, please order your yearbook. The cost is \$30 if you order through 4/24/24. Please read the link below for more information.</p> <p>Yearbook Flier</p>
Student Metro Ride- On information	<p>Metro Youth Cruiser Card Information Ride On User Guide English Ride On User Guide Spanish</p>
Beyond the Table Now	<p>Hot meals are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday night at 5 pm at Parkland Middle School in Aspen Hill. Attached are flyers in English and Spanish (disregard the part about masks and social distancing)</p> <p>Beyond the Table. ENG flier Beyond the Table.SPA flier</p>
Capital Area Food Bank	<p>The Capital Area Food Bank will be distributing food at Arcola ES every month. Please read the attached flier for the details and times of pick up.</p> <p>Food Bank Information (bilingual)</p>
Standing Items of Interest	
Chromebooks	<p>Odessa Shannon will have Chromebook Carts with class sets of Chromebook 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</p>



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	<p>STOLEN ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT and a parent may have to pick up phones/electronics if they become an instructional distraction for the student.</p>
<p>Bell Times and School Attendance</p>	<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-3:00pm. If students are not able to attend classes, please email Ms. Johana Martinez, attendance secretary, at Johana S MartinezMartinez@mcpsmd.org. Students should bring in a note upon their return to school regarding their absence to adjust their attendance correctly. A written explanation of each absence is required from the parent/guardian within three days of the student's return to school. You will receive an automated call whenever your student is out for one period or the whole day. Please check with your student before calling the school because the main office cannot verify if they were in class at that specific time frame.</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 a.m. 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>
<p>ParentVUE Activation</p>	<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>How to activate my ParentVUE account Cómo activar mi cuenta ParentVUE</p>
<p>myMCPS Classroom/Canvas</p>	<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. <i>*Parents/Guardians can access myMCPS Classroom via ParentVUE</i></p>
<p>Lockers</p>	<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>
<p>Conflict Resolution Program at School</p>	<p>The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (CRCMC), is excited to offer a school based conflict resolution program this year. Staff and volunteers from</p>

	<p>the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County will conduct this exciting program here at Odessa Shannon MS one day a week.</p> <p>The purpose of this school-based conflict resolution program is to provide the students and staff of Odessa Shannon MS the opportunity to address and resolve student disputes with an “on-site” conflict resolution professional. The program will empower students to use the on-site Conflict Resolution Office to address and resolve disputes in constructive ways supporting a positive and safe learning environment. Additionally, students will practice restorative discipline principles that focus on: strengthening relationships, collaborative problem-solving, and student accountability.</p> <p>This on-site school-based Conflict Resolution Program will be housed in the counseling office. The office will be staffed by AmeriCorps and Volunteers with the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County who will serve as a neutral person to accept concerns on behalf of students, teachers, and staff regarding student concerns. The position will be staffed by personnel from the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County and will provide individual conferencing, community conferencing, and mediation. Please review, sign the letter below and return it to school if you do not wish for your child to participate in the program.</p> <p>Conflict Resolution Opt Out letter Carta para no participar en el programa de conflicto y resolución</p>
<p>Sunday Message to the Community</p>	<p>During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through ConnectEd 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.</p>