



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

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Week of September 17, 2023

Greetings Odessa Shannon Families,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. We are excited to announce our after school programs will begin on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. These programs offer a wonderful opportunity for your child to engage in enriching activities and learning experiences beyond the regular school day. Students who participate in our after-school programs will have the option to catch the activity bus home. We will have two activity buses that will run on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. The buses will depart from campus at 4:35pm. Please review the activity bus schedule with your child and determine the closest stop to your home. Please note the after-school bus routes are condensed, there are less stops than the regular school buses. [Activity Bus 1](#) and [Activity Bus 2](#).

We would like to inform you that the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing for our middle school students will begin this week. The MAP assessment is designed to measure your child's academic growth throughout the school year and to help us tailor our instructional strategies to better meet their needs. Students will take the MAP Math (MAPm) on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 and the MAP Reading (MAPr) Test on Thursday, September 21, 2023. We encourage students to be well-rested and to have a healthy breakfast on testing days. There is no need for extensive preparation, as the MAP tests are designed to reflect what students are already learning in the classroom. Students will receive their results immediately after completing the test.

**September 22, 2023 will be an early release day for students.**

In this weekly message, you will find important information regarding Thursdays Things to Know, Fall Sports and Afterschool Activities Information, OSMS Virtual Store, MAP Testing, Hearing and Vision Testing, Early Release for Students, Picture Day, the 8th Grade DCC High School process, Student Metro Ride-On information, and the Conflict Resolution Program. Additionally, please find our weekly standing items, regarding Chromebook information, cell phone policy, bell times, school attendance and other items of interest. If you have any questions, please contact the school by phone at (240) 740-4150.

Warmest Regards,

***Dr. Natasha Booms***  
Dr. Natasha Booms  
Acting Principal

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

**Important Information for Parents/Guardians week of September 17, 2023**

Topic	Weekly Information
Thursday Things to Know	<p>Here are things to know for Thursday Sept. 14. Get information about a new guide to ensure student success, Covid 19 district measures, how you can share your feedback on the 2023-2024 school calendar, upcoming Girls' Summit, and a chance to comment on proposed amendments to three policies.</p> <p><a href="#">Read Message</a></p>
Fall Sports and Afterschool Activities Information Begins September 19	<p>Registration for fall athletics is underway. Our fall sports include cross country, boys' softball, and girls' softball. Students must submit the required documents to be eligible for participation. The required documents include the physical form and the parent/guardian permission form. The forms are linked below and hard copies are available in the main office and in the cafeteria during lunch.</p> <p>Please contact our Athletic Coordinator, Ms. April Johnson, with any questions.</p> <p><a href="#">Physical Form</a> and <a href="#">Parent/Guardian Permission Slip</a></p> <p><a href="#">Fall Athletics and Extracurricular Activities Reference Sheet</a></p>
Virtual School Store Open!	<p>Please shop for Odessa Shannon MS school clothing and merchandise until September 20th. <b>Click here to shop:</b> <a href="#">Odessa Shannon Middle School 2023   The Final Touch (itemorder.com)</a>.</p>
MAP Testing September 19 and 21	<p>This week students will be taking MAPm on Tuesday 9/19 and MAPr on Thursday 9/21. We will run a modified schedule so all students are able to complete their tests and also attend all their classes. Make up testing will be held on Friday 9/22.</p>
Hearing and Vision Testing September 20-22	<p>The Hearing and Vision team is scheduled September 20-22 to screen the students at OSMS. Students to be screened include all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, students new to MCPS, and students referred by staff. Please reach out to the nurse if you have any questions at 240-740-4152.</p>



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<p style="text-align: center;">Early Release Day <b>September 22, 2023</b></p>	<p>Friday, September 22, 2023 will be an early release day for students. That means students will be dismissed at 12:30 PM. Please see the attached schedule and make any necessary arrangements if you have not done so.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Early Release Schedule for OSMS SY 24</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Picture Day <b>September 26, 2023</b></p>	<p>Picture day for OSMS students is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2023.</p> <p>More information will follow.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DCC HS Information for 8th grade students and families</p>	<p>The DCC HS process will be starting soon for all current 8th graders. Please make sure that the school has your current address since the information will be sent to your home address. Below is the information on upcoming important sessions and open houses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Downcounty HS Information Session (virtual)</b> <b>September 28, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Learn about the Choice Process &amp; the academies at all 5 DCC High Schools</b> <b>6 p.m.</b> - Academy &amp; Choice Overview Presentation (English) <b>7 p.m.</b> - Academy &amp; Choice Overview Presentation (Spanish)</p> <p>The presentation will be available for viewing on the MCPS website: <a href="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Links to an external site">https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Links to an external site</a>. <b>If you are unable to attend, the recording will be posted on the DCC website within a week -</b> <a href="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/Links to an external site">https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/Links to an external site</a>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DCC High School Open Houses At Each School</b> <b>Oct. 3 Blair HS, 6:30 p.m. *</b> <b>Oct. 6 Wheaton HS, 6:30 p.m.*</b> <b>Oct. 13 Kennedy HS, 6:30 p.m. *</b> <b>Oct. 20 Northwood HS, 7 p.m. MC<sup>2</sup> 6 p.m.*</b> <b>Oct. 27 Einstein HS, 6:30 p.m. Visual Arts 6 p.m.*</b></p> <p><b>*Application programs hosted at these schools will be offering a separate presentation. See MCPS Special Programs website for details under Programs-At-A-Glance for dates and times. Visit</b> <a href="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/Links to an external site">https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/Links to an external site</a> in October to learn more information.</p>
<p>Student Metro Ride- On information</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Metro Youth Cruiser Card Information</a> <a href="#">Ride On User Guide English</a></p>

	<a href="#">Ride On User Guide Spanish</a>
<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 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.</p> <p>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><a href="#">Conflict Resolution Opt Out letter</a>  <a href="#">Carta para no participar en el programa de conflicto y resolución</a></p>
<b>Standing Items of Interest</b>	
<p>Chromebooks</p>	<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 <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>
<p>Cell Phone/Electronics Policy</p>	<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. <b>Please note that the school is NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT</b> and a parent may have to pick up phones/electronics if they become an instructional distraction for the student.</p>



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<p>Bell Times and School Attendance</p>	<p><a href="#">Bell Schedule</a></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 <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 next day about their excused absence 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. <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.</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>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><a href="#">How to activate my ParentVUE account</a> <a href="#">Cómo activar mi cuenta ParentVUE</a></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.</p> <p><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>Sunday Message to the Community</p>	<p>During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through Connect Ed 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>