



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

Week of September 10, 2023

Greetings Odessa Shannon Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. We want to express our appreciation for your attendance at our recent Back to School Night. It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces in the school community come together to support our students' education. Please provide us with feedback by completing the [OSMS Back to School Night Survey](#) if you attended the event. If you took the survey, we thank you, it only needs to be completed once.

If you were unable to attend Back School Night and would like information about your child's classes please contact their teachers through Synergy or our school webpage under staff directory (go to left side-green box-quick links- scroll down to staff directory) <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms>. Please contact the school if you need assistance or have general questions at 240-740-4150.

We are excited to announce that our virtual school store is open for purchasing Odessa Shannon MS clothing and merchandise. **The virtual store is open from now until September 20, 2023.** Please click the link to shop and for more information [Odessa Shannon Middle School 2023 | The Final Touch \(itemorder.com\)](#).

Please make sure that you are registered for ParentVue to access information about your child's academic progress, attendance and to ensure you are receiving our weekly messages via Synergy. Please keep up with our school wide and community events by following us on Twitter (currently X) @OSMS_CSL. Additionally, you can find information about Odessa Shannon happenings on our school webpage

In this weekly message, you will find important information regarding the PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council meeting on September 12, 2023 @6:30pm, student Immunizations, Extend Beyond the Bell, the 8th Grade DCC High School process, Student Metro Ride-On information, the Conflict Resolution Program, and MCPS Five Things to Know. 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

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

Important Information for Parents/Guardians week of September 10, 2023

Topic	Weekly Information
<p>Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)/Hispanic Parent Council Meeting Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @6:30PM</p>	<p>Please join us on September 12, 2023, at 6:30 PM for the PTSA/Hispanic Council Parent Meeting. This will be a combined meeting. We will meet in the cafe at 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be served, and translation will be provided.</p> <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 via email at: odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Immunizations Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 4-6 PM.</p>	<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. We will host a free immunization clinic for any MCPS student that needs to have one on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 4-6 PM.</p>
<p>After School Program: Excel Beyond the Bell Registration is from September 5-15, 2023</p>	<p>The Montgomery County Recreation Center will sponsor Excel Beyond the Bell this school year beginning <i>October 2-December 21</i>. The registration form and list of activities can be found here EBB brochure for OSMS. The EBB registration window will be <i>September 5-15</i>. Students will be registered on a first come, first served basis. Return the completed form to the main office or email it to EBB.Shannon@montgomerycountymd.gov. <i>If a registration packet is incomplete, it will be returned to the parent.</i></p>
<p>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>Downcounty HS Information Session (virtual) SEPTEMBER 28TH</p> <p>Learn about the Choice Process & the academies at all 5 DCC High Schools 6 p.m. - Academy & Choice Overview Presentation (English) 7 p.m. - Academy & Choice Overview Presentation (Spanish)</p> <p>The presentation will be available for viewing on the MCPS website: https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/Links to an external site. If you are unable to attend, the recording will be posted on the DCC website within a week - https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/downcounty/Links to an external site.</p>



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	<p>DCC High School Open Houses At Each School OCT 3 Blair HS, 6:30 p.m. * OCT 6 Wheaton HS, 6:30 p.m.* OCT 13 Kennedy HS, 6:30 p.m. * OCT 20 Northwood HS, 7 p.m. MC² 6 p.m.* OCT 27 Einstein HS, 6:30 p.m. Visual Arts 6 p.m.*</p> <p>*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 https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/Links to an external site in October to learn more information.</p>
<p>Student Metro Ride- On information</p>	<p>Metro Youth Cruiser Card Information Ride On User Guide English Ride On User Guide Spanish</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 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. Conflict Resolution Opt Out letter Carta para no participar en el programa de conflicto y resolución</p>
<p>MCPS Things to Know</p>	

Virtual School Store Open!	Please shop for Odessa Shannon MS school clothing and merchandise until September 20th. Click here to shop -> Odessa Shannon Middle School 2023 The Final Touch (itemorder.com) .
Standing Items of Interest	
Chromebooks	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.
Cell Phone/Electronics Policy	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.
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 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>



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ParentVUE Activation	<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>
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>
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>
Sunday Message to the Community	<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. Please make sure your information is up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails.</p>