



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

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Greetings Odessa Shannon Families,

Week of September 4, 2023

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that the first week of school has been a smooth transition for your child. As we settle into our routines, we wanted to keep you informed about updates, events, and highlights for the upcoming week. 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.

Please remember that Monday, September 4, 2023, is a holiday for students, there will be no school. In this weekly message, you will find important information regarding our Back-to-School Meet and Greet on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, the PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council meeting, student Immunizations, Extend Beyond the Bell, 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 4, 2023**

Topic	Weekly Information
OSMS Back to School Night <b>Wednesday September 6, 2023</b>	OSMS will have our Back to School Night on <b>Wednesday, September 6, 2023, from 6:30-8:30 PM</b> . This is the opportunity to meet the teachers, counselors, and get any necessary information you may need for your child's academic success. Please see the flier for detailed information. <a href="#">OSMS Back to School Meet and Greet</a> <a href="#">Regreso a la escuela de OSMS para conocer y saludar</a>

<p>Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)/Hispanic Parent Council Meeting <b>Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @6:30PM</b></p>	<p>Please join us on September 12, 2023, at 6:30pm for the PTSA/Hispanic Council Parent Meeting. This will be a combined meeting. We will meet in the cafe at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be served, and translation will be provided. <a href="#">PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council (ENG)/PTSA/Hispanic Parent Council (SPAN)</a>.</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 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>
<p>Immunizations <b>Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 4-6 PM.</b></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.</p> <p>We will host a free immunization clinic for any MCPS student that needs to have one on <b>Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 4-6 PM.</b></p>
<p>After School Program: Excel Beyond the Bell <b>Registration is from September 5-15, 2023</b></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 <a href="#">EBB brochure for OSMS</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:EBB.Shannon@montgomerycountymd.gov">EBB.Shannon@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>. <b><i>If a registration packet is incomplete, it will be returned to the parent.</i></b></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.</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</p>



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	<p>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>
MCPS Things to Know	<p>Dear MCPS Families,</p> <p>We hope you had a wonderful first week! Here are Things to Know for Thurs. Aug. 31. Get information about a curriculum update for students in Grade 9, new communication tools to receive messages, athletic safety and watch a recap of the first day of school!</p> <p><a href="#">Read Message</a></p>
<b>Standing Items of Interest</b>	
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 <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>
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. <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>
Bell Times and School Attendance	<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-</p>

	<p>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>
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><a href="#">How to activate my ParentVUE account</a>  <a href="#">Cómo activar mi cuenta ParentVUE</a></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.  <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. <b>Please make sure your information is up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails.</b></p>
Community Letter and Drinking Water Test Report	<p>Please see attached the Drinking Water Test Report and Community Letter for your School.</p> <p><a href="#">Odessa Shannon MS Community Letter 2023.pdf</a>  <a href="#">Odessa Shannon MS Attachment.pdf</a></p>