



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

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April 21, 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.

**Asynchronous Learning Day, April 22, 2024 students do not report to school**

**Monday, April 22, 2024**, will be an asynchronous learning day for students. **This means that students will not report to school on that day.** Instead, their teachers will assign work for them to complete on their own. Students can expect up to four hours of work to be completed on Canvas or on paper, and teachers will assign the work by Friday, April 19. Students must turn in the assignments to be marked present for the day. **If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher via email; [here is the provided list of email addresses.](#) You can also find your child's teacher information on their Canvas page and the school website.** Please see the [Asynchronous Instructional Day Plan](#) for more information.

**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 sign up [here](#). If you have any questions please contact Ms. Ellisa Hidalgo at [Ellisa\\_M\\_EarleyHidalgo@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Ellisa_M_EarleyHidalgo@mcpsmd.org) or Ms. Rivas-Hernandez at [Michelle\\_J\\_Rivas@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Michelle_J_Rivas@mcpsmd.org). [International Night Flier](#).

**Bring your child to work day**

April 25, 2024 is "Bring Your Child to Work Day". If you take your child to work it will be an excused absence. Please make sure that your child brings a note to school the day following the absence.

**Reminder - No food deliveries (Uber, Door Dash, etc.) during the school day or after school.**

In an effort to maintain a focused learning environment for all students, we kindly request that food deliveries to the school be avoided whenever possible. This policy is in place to reduce disruptions in the academic setting. We understand that students may occasionally forget their lunches or have dietary preferences, in that case, parents or guardians may drop off lunches in person in the front office. Additionally, school lunch is provided for all students at no additional cost if they do not have access to a lunch. Students who stay after school receive a snack (for example, pizza, chicken nuggets, fries, etc.) prior to their activity. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in helping us create a positive and productive learning environment for all students. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school administration.

**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 [alternate Google Form](#)

here. Please make sure you are registered for ParentVue to enroll your child. Below are helpful links to assist you.

[ELO flier](#)

[Tutorial for Registration. ENG](#)

[Step by Step to register on ParentVue.ENG](#)

[How to create a ParentVue account. ENG](#)

In partnership,

***Dr. Natasha Booms***

Dr. Natasha Booms

Principal

**Odessa Shannon Middle School's Website:**

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

**Important Information for Parents/Guardians April 21, 2024**

Topic	Weekly Information
MCPS 5 Things to Know	Here are <i>Things to Know</i> this week at MCPS. Get information about the upcoming Asynchronous learning day, newly elected Student Member of the Board (SMOB), how students are spreading awareness about bullying and hate-bias, how you can watch this year's Champions for Children event, upcoming events, a Covid-19 reminder, and good news this week.  <a href="#">Read message</a>
Bus Safety	<b>Reminder of Bus Safety</b> 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: <a href="#">Community Bus Letter. ENG</a>



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Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours	<p>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.</p> <p><a href="#">SSL Presentation</a></p>
Remind Messages	<p>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 <a href="#">Remind</a>, 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!</p> <p><a href="#">Remind Information/Sign Up for Parents</a></p>
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><a href="#">Yearbook Flier</a></p>
Student Metro Ride- On information	<p><a href="#">Metro Youth Cruiser Card Information</a> <a href="#">Ride On User Guide English</a> <a href="#">Ride On User Guide Spanish</a></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><a href="#">Beyond the Table. ENG flier</a> <a href="#">Beyond the Table.SPA flier</a></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><a href="#">Food Bank Information (bilingual)</a></p>

**Standing Items of Interest**

<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>
<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-3:00pm. 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>. 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 <b>within three days</b> of the student’s return to school. You will receive an automated call whenever your student is out for <b>one period or the whole day</b>. 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. <b>Students will remain outside until 7:50 a.m.</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>



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myMCPS Classroom/Canvas	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>
Lockers	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.
Conflict Resolution Program at School	<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.</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>
Sunday Message to the Community	During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through ConnectEd 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>