



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

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February 18, 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.

**Family Climate Survey for the 23-24 school year. Share your thoughts with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)!**

Your opinions and experiences are important to us, and Family Climate survey is a valuable opportunity for you to share your ideas and contribute to the continuous improvement of our school district. Please take a few minutes to complete the Family Climate Survey. Your child will take the survey during the school day in their homeroom class.

[Family Survey. ENG](#)

**Odessa Shannon Middle School Second Annual Literacy Night!**

Save the date! On Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 6-8 PM, OSMS families and students are invited to have fun with literacy. After enjoying light snacks prepared by our FACS students, join both bilingual students and staff in our media center to play family style board games and learn how playing games can improve literacy for all ages. During the evening, our Scholastic Book Fair will also be running. At the end of the evening, you'll have a chance to win one of many games you'll have played.

[Literacy Sign Up.ENG](#)

[Literacy Flier](#)

**Minority Scholars Program Students**

Our Minority Scholar Program students have entered in the first ever Youth Anti Racism Film Festival! They produced a short film on Microaggressions. The festival will take place on February 24, 2024, at the AFI Theater in Silver Spring, MD from 10-2pm, the donation suggestion is \$5. Seats are limited. Please click on the links below for more information.

[Anti-Racist Film Festival](#)

[EventBrite Tickets](#)

**Second Semester Fundraiser Started**

We will be participating in a school fundraiser through Cherrydale (snack items) to raise funds for essential programs not currently funded through traditional means. The fundraiser runs from Thursday, February 1 through Thursday, February 29, and was introduced to students through homeroom on Friday, February 2, 2024.

Participating is as simple as 1, 2, 3!

1. Register at [www.ShopFund.com](http://www.ShopFund.com)
2. Share custom support links with family & friends via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Email, Text and more.
3. Student Goal: Minimum of 5 Online Supporters.

**REGISTER-SHARE-WIN:** Sharing gets you tickets for chances to win over \$100,000 in instant prizes.

### Fundraiser Links:

- [Kick-Off Videos - \(https://vimeo.com/showcase/10052744\)](https://vimeo.com/showcase/10052744)
- [Prize Program - \(https://bit.ly/3is8Gl3 \)](https://bit.ly/3is8Gl3)

Please contact Mr. Levine, Assistant Principal, with any questions (Samuel\_G\_Levine@mcpsmd.org).  
Thank you for your support!

### Attendance

Parents/Guardians please remind your child that school/class attendance is important. If a student is more than 20 minutes late to class, it is considered a class absence. If a student misses four or more class periods it will count as a whole day of absence. Parents/Guardians will receive an automated phone call from the school if your child is more than 20 minutes late to a class or if they miss more than four class periods. If you have a question about attendance please call to speak with Ms. Martinez, our attendance secretary or your child's grade level counselor. Please make sure that you provide a note (within 3 days of return) if your child is absent from school.

In the weekly updates below, you will find important information regarding: MCPS Things to Know, Student Service Learning Hours Information, Updated Snow Date Information, the adopted MCPS school calendar, Remind Messages, yearbook sales, the 8th Grade DCC High School process, Student Metro Ride-On information, Beyond the Table Now and the Capital Area Food Bank distribution. 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.

In partnership,

***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 February 18, 2024**

Topic	Weekly Information
MCPS Things to Know	<p>Here are five things to know for Thursday, Feb. 15. MCPS is inviting ALL students, staff, and families to share your input and overall satisfaction with your school, and/or office and district. Also, get information about a board public hearing to consider eliminating or modifying three MCPS programs, find out who the finalists are for the 2024 Teacher of Year, upcoming events and more!</p> <p><a href="#">Read message</a></p>



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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>
Updated Snow Day information	<p><b>Updated Snow Day information</b></p> <p>Please make sure that you sign up for the weather alert and the MCPS Emergency Information to keep up with the latest school closures and/or delays. Additionally, please review the <a href="#">Color Weather Code. eng</a>, which provides guidelines related to school delays and closures during emergency weather conditions.</p> <p>Please be advised that a <b>Code Purple</b> is when <b>virtual learning occurs</b>. Students at Odessa Shannon can obtain a Chromebook by completing an at <a href="#">Home Chromebook Request Form for Families</a>. If you have any questions or concerns about requesting a Chromebook please contact the school at 240-740-4150. You are encouraged to complete the form if you do not have access to an electronic device in your home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">At Home Request for Chromebook Flyer (English)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">At Home Request for Chromebook Flyer (Spanish)</a></li></ul> <p><b>Sign up for Important Alerts</b></p> <p>How do you stay informed now that the weather is changing? Please make sure that you sign up for the weather alert and the MCPS Emergency Information to keep up with the latest school closures and/or delays. Please review the links below for more information.</p> <p><a href="#">MCPS Weather Alerts</a> <a href="#">MCPS Emergency Information</a></p>
MCPS Adopted School Calendar 2024-2025 school year	<p>During the December 5, 2023, Board of Education (Board) business meeting, the Board adopted the 2024–2025 School Year calendar. The calendar is responsive to community input, offers limited instructional disruptions, and maintains 182 days of instruction. Mark your calendar for the first day of school next year. Please use the links provided to access the 2024–2025 School Year calendars.</p> <p><a href="#">2024-2025 Traditional School Year Calendar</a> <a href="#">2024-2025 Innovative School Year Calendar</a></p>
Remind Messages	<p>We are excited to share that MCPS is transitioning to the use of Remind to engage</p>

	<p>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>
DCC HS Information for 8th grade students and families	<p>The DCC HS process has started 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><b>DCC 2023-2024 Timeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>February 9, 2024- DCC Round 2 choice Form Deadline</b></li> <li>● <b>Mid March 2024- Notification of Round 2 results</b></li> </ul>
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>



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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 <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.
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. <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.
Bell Times and School Attendance	<a href="#">Bell Schedule</a>  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.  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.  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>
ParentVUE Activation	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

	<p>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.</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>
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	<p>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></p>



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