



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

March 10, 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.

Interims Distributed

This is a reminder that students will receive their interims tomorrow, **March 11, 2024**. Please review the interim report with your child. Interim grade reports serve as a valuable tool for you to monitor your child's academic progress, intervene when necessary, and maintain a strong partnership with our school. Students will receive a hard copy of their interim report this week, however the information will also be available via ParentVue. If assistance is needed on how to access ParentVue please review the directions linked in this document below, you may also call our front office for assistance at 240-740-4150.

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) Testing

All 8th grade students will take the MISA test on Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Make up dates will take place on Thursday, March 14 and Friday, March 15, 2024. Please make sure that your student is present on testing days.

Career Day

Odessa Shannon Middle School will host a Career Day on Friday, March 15, 2024. Over thirty guest speakers will share their career experience and help the students explore how to complete a resume, job applications and research sites for the future.

Upcoming Fundraiser

There will be a McDonald's fundraiser on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 12313 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD from 4-8PM. Please see the attached flier for more information.

[McTeacher flier.bilingual](#)

Social Media Seminar via Zoom March, 12, 2024 6:30-7:30PM

*In this day and age where teenagers use the internet daily and access social media regularly, it is important for them and their parents to be aware of the dangers that exist online. Teenagers can become the targets of cyberbullying, harassment and discrimination, predatory marketing, criminal and predatory activity and the violation of the privacy of their personal information. **Join us on March 12, 2024 via zoom for a seminar on Internet and Social Media safety, for parents and their children.** Learn about the different types of dangers, what children and parents should be aware of, and how to prevent you or your family from becoming a victim." Please see the zoom information below:*

Topic: Social Media Presentation

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/83084845085?pwd=ZnJxU0ppWVVzVUw4MG5KTXRyS0d3UT09>

Meeting ID: 830 8484 5085

Passcode: OSMS

Reminder of Bus Safety

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:

[Community Bus Letter. ENG](#)

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](#)**

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 March 10, 2024

Topic	Weekly Information
MCPS Things to Know	<p>Here are things to know for Thursday Mar. 7. Get information about the 2024-2025 Change of School Assignment (COSA) transfer application, update on CDC respiratory virus guidance, open climate survey for all students, parents/caregivers and staff, upcoming events and opportunities, and news about our students and staff.</p> <p>Read message</p>



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<p style="text-align: center;">Northwood HS International and Cultural Week Thursday, March 21, 2024</p>	<p>Northwood High School's The Black Diaspora Club will be reviving our annual International and Cultural week during the week of March 18, 2024 culminating with International Night on Thursday, March 21st, 2024 at 5:30pm in the Northwood auditorium and cafeteria. All Northwood and MCPS community members, including any elementary, middle, and high school students and families, are invited to participate in International Night, whether it is through registering to bring food, performing, or hosting an activity table about your country and culture. Students who participate will receive SSL hours and a chance to meet new students and learn about the cultures of their peers. Please see the flyers and information linked here to sign up! We hope to see you there!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours</p>	<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>SSL Presentation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Updated Snow Day information</p>	<p>Updated Snow Day information</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 Color Weather Code. eng, which provides guidelines related to school delays and closures during emergency weather conditions.</p> <p>Please be advised that a Code Purple is when virtual learning occurs. Students at Odessa Shannon can obtain a Chromebook by completing an at Home Chromebook Request Form for Families. 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">• At Home Request for Chromebook Flyer (English)• At Home Request for Chromebook Flyer (Spanish) <p>Sign up for Important Alerts</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>MCPS Weather Alerts MCPS Emergency Information</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>2024-2025 Traditional School Year Calendar 2024-2025 Innovative School Year Calendar</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 Remind, 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>Remind Information/Sign Up for Parents</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>Yearbook Flier</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>DCC 2023-2024 Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 9, 2024- DCC Round 2 choice Form Deadline ● Mid March 2024- Notification of Round 2 results
Student Metro Ride- On information	<p>Metro Youth Cruiser Card Information Ride On User Guide English Ride On User Guide Spanish</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>Beyond the Table. ENG flier Beyond the Table.SPA flier</p>



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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>Food Bank Information (bilingual)</p>
Standing Items of Interest	
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 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.</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. 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.</p>
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-3:00pm. If students are not able to attend classes, please email Ms. Johana Martinez, attendance secretary, at Johana S. MartinezMartinez@mcpsmd.org. 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 within three days of the student's return to school. You will receive an automated call whenever your student is out for one period or the whole day. 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. Students will remain outside until 7:50 a.m. 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>
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>
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>Conflict Resolution Opt Out letter Carta para no participar en el programa de conflicto y resolución</p>



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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. **Please make sure your information is up to date in ParentVue so you receive the emails.**