



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

February 16, 2025

Dear Odessa Shannon 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.

### **Presidents' Day Holiday**

This is a reminder that there will be no school on **Monday, February 17, 2025** for Presidents' Day. **Students will return to school on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.**

### **New Breakfast Procedure**

Starting Tuesday, February 18, 2025, we will implement a new breakfast procedure at OSMS. Students will go through the breakfast line and take their meal to their designated Homeroom class to eat. They will be expected to follow school procedures and properly dispose of their trash. The breakfast line will close at 8:10 AM.

### **RESCHEDULED: Virtual Outdoor Education Parent Meeting**

Parents of sixth graders please join us for the virtual outdoor education parent meeting on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6 PM**. This meeting will provide a detailed breakdown of the three days and two nights your student will spend at Outdoor Education. We will have a translator for the meeting. If you have any questions please reach out to Mary\_C\_Defrehn @mcpsmd.org. Please see zoom information here: Meeting ID: 830 8484 5085 Passcode: OSMS

### **A Midsummer Night's Dream-Play- New Matinee Date**

Due to snow days and delays we had to reschedule our matinee school play. The new date is **Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 2:00 PM**. Students will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream". The cost for adults is \$7 and for students is \$3.

### **Unity in Diversity Black History Expo**

We are excited to invite you and your family to celebrate at our **Black History Expo** on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at Odessa Shannon Middle School! This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, learn, and celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of the African Diaspora. **All families are welcome to attend as we celebrate African American, Afro Latino, and African cultures!**

### **How can you participate?**

1. **Bring a Dish:** We encourage families to share their favorite traditional foods to help make the event a delicious celebration of cultural diversity. Whether it's a family recipe or a popular dish, we would love to have you contribute!
2. **Student Participation and SSL Hours:** Students can actively participate in the event by helping with setup, serving food, or even sharing performances or cultural presentations. Students will earn **Student Service Learning (SSL) hours** for their participation, so it's a great way to get involved while contributing to the community. **Students should work with our staff members to participate.**

We look forward to seeing you at this vibrant celebration! Let's come together to honor and enjoy the traditions, food, and contributions of the community. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please reach out to [nattie.m.jenifer@mcpsmd.net](mailto:nattie.m.jenifer@mcpsmd.net) or [ellisa.m.earleyhidalgo@mcpsmd.net](mailto:ellisa.m.earleyhidalgo@mcpsmd.net).

**Sign up for Important Weather Alerts**

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 [link](#) for more information.

Please review the important information below regarding cell phones, Chromebooks, and parent-school communication. On the next pages, you will find important general information. If you have any questions, please contact the school by phone at (240) 740-4150.

Warmest Regards,  
*Natasha H. Booms*  
 Dr. Natasha Booms  
 Principal

**Important Information for Parents/Guardians**

Topic	Information
MCPS Things to Know	Here are a few things to know for Thursday, February 13, 2025. <a href="#">Things to Know.ENG</a>
Family Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention <b>March 1, 2025</b>	MCPS in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Montgomery Goes Purple, will host a family forum on mental health and substance use prevention to provide expertise and resources to students, staff, and families regarding the dangers of substance abuse. It will be held <b>Saturday, March 1, 2025</b> , from 8-12PM at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.
Schaeffer Piano Sale <b>March 8-16, 2025</b>	Schaeffer's Piano Company has a public sale of instruments twice a year--The second sale is March 8-16, 2025. During this time the public can purchase pianos at a reduced price. Please see the attached for more information. <a href="#">Schaeffer flier.ENG</a>
OSMS Afterschool and Sports Activities	We encourage students to get involved in their school community! Families should check in with your child's sponsor and coach for the meeting days of the activities, practices and sporting events, please see our <a href="#">afterschool offerings</a> here. A hot snack (for ex. pizza, chicken nuggets, etc.) will be provided to students prior to the activity starting. Students may ride the 4:30

	PM activity bus home, please note that activity bus stop drop offs are not the same as students' normal bus stops. <a href="#">Evening Activity Bus Stops</a> .
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 if your child is tardy/early departure or absent from school. The note <b>must</b> be received <b>within 3 days</b> of the return date to school. Notes received after that date will not be accepted.
Cellphones Away All Day Policy	<b>Cell phones:</b> <b>Odessa Shannon has an <i>Away All Day</i> electronics policy.</b> We comply with the county expectations for cell phone usage in middle schools. We encourage students <i>not to bring</i> cell phones and other electronic devices, such as earbuds, to school. If students must bring their phones to school we ask them to keep them out of sight for the school day. Students are not allowed to use cell phones in the classroom, hallways or at lunch. They may only use them before and after school. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones/electronics. <b>If a device becomes a distraction parents will be notified and asked to pick up the cell phones.</b> This information will be shared multiple times with students on the first day of school and throughout the week. If a student has to call home they may ask their teacher for a pass to make the call in the main office.
Parent Information for ParentVUE	One page of information for Parent Vue, CEP, counseling and school websites. <a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a> Please continue to check our website on a regular basis for all school information. We are updating our website on a regular basis with updated information. <a href="#">WEBSITE</a> <a href="#">How to activate my ParentVUE account</a>
School Calendar for 2024-2025	<a href="#">Traditional School Calendar SY25</a> <a href="#">Traditional School Year Adopted Calendar SY25</a>
Bus Schedules	Schedules with bus stop and time information are located at the links below and on our website. Please be mindful that students should arrive at their bus stop 10 mins prior to the scheduled time listed to ensure they are on time and do not miss the bus. <a href="#">Bus Information ARRIVAL</a> <a href="#">Bus Information DEPARTURE</a>

<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-3:00 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 in order 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>
<p>Cafeteria (Breakfast and Lunch) Information</p>	<p>Each OSMS student will receive free breakfast and lunch. <i>This does not include any a la carte items. Those will still be charged at their regular rate.</i></p> <p>If you have other students in your household and do not attend one of the chosen schools you will need the free and reduced lunch application as this information is used to determine eligibility for a variety of state/federal assistance programs. Applications will need to be completed online at the following website: <a href="http://www.MySchoolApps.com">www.MySchoolApps.com</a></p> <p>Students are not allowed to have food delivered to school. If you wish to drop off lunch for your child. It must be dropped off at the front office.</p>
<p>myMCPS Classroom/Canvas</p>	<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>
<p>Chromebooks</p>	<p>Odessa Shannon will have Chromebook Carts with class sets of chromebooks 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>Lockers</p>	<p>All students were assigned a locker the first day of school. We ask that all students put their backpacks in their locker. Students should not carry backpacks throughout the school day.</p>

<p>Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)</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>Sunday Message to the Community</p>	<p>During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through <i>Synergy email</i> and <i>Remind</i> 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>