



Odessa Shannon Middle School
11800 Monticello Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20902
Phone: (240) 740-4150 FAX: (301) 649-8110

August 14, 2023

Dear Odessa Shannon Students and Families:

I hope this message finds you all safe, well, and enjoying the summer. On behalf of the administrative team and our whole staff, I want to welcome all of our new and returning families to Odessa Shannon Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year. We are elated to welcome our students to another year of academic excellence!

Our goal at Odessa Shannon Middle School is to focus on rigorous academics, positive relationships, equity and access for all students. We will continue to use restorative practices to build the social and emotional growth of our students. We will use our daily advisory period in the morning to focus on enhancing our students' leadership skills through community circles, wellness activities and mindfulness lessons. Our staff has been working diligently this summer to provide students with optimal learning experiences this academic year. We look forward to seeing our students on Monday, August 28, 2023!

Chromebooks:

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 [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.

Cell phones:

Odessa Shannon will continue this school year with the county expectations for cell phone usage in middle schools. We are highly encouraging students not to bring cell phones and other electronic devices to school. If students must bring their phones to school we are asking them to keep them in their lockers and stowed away ALL 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 and if a device becomes a distraction parents will be notified and asked to pick up the cell phones.

ParentVue and Sunday Messages:

Parents and guardians, please remember that this is your school community and we welcome your involvement. Please sign up for ParentVue, this is your way of accessing your student's grades, receiving information from teachers and our community messages, seeing your student's schedules and a plethora of other information from the school. Families will continue to receive messages on Sunday evenings to keep you updated on school wide information. We will also continue to post updated information from the school and the county to our website, <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms/>.

As we prepare to welcome students on Monday, August 28, 2023, I want to share some information that may be helpful. On the next pages, you will find important general information. If you have any questions about this information, please contact the school by phone at (240) 740-4150.

Please enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Natasha H. Booms

Dr. Natasha H. Booms
Acting Principal, Odessa Shannon MS

Odessa Shannon Middle School is organized as follows:

ADMINISTRATION	Dr. Natasha H. Booms, Acting Principal Mr. Samuel G. Levine, Assistant Principal Mr. Maxwell P. Johnston, Assistant Principal
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Grade Level	Team Leaders	Administrator(s)	Counselor(s)
6	Ms. Mary Defrehn Mr. Tyler Norton	Mr. Johnston	Ms. Qureshi
7	Mr. Adam Howard Ms. Rebecca Burtram	Mr. Levine (A-L) Mr. Johnston (M-Z)	Mr. Purdie
8	Ms. Erin Kelly Ms. Angela Killebrew	Mr. Levine	Ms. Rossini
6-8 Resource Counselor ESOL 1/2	N/A	N/A	Ms. Fischer
Student Support/ Alt 1	Dr. Adams/ Mr. Adam Howard	N/A	N/A

Office Contact Information	
Main Office	240-740-4150
Counseling Office/Registrar	240-740-4160
Cafeteria	240-740-4154

Office Contact Information	
Health Room	240-740-4152
Fax	301-649-2430

Odessa Shannon Middle School's Website:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/shannonms>

Important Information for Parents/Guardians

Topic	Information
Parent Information for ParentVUE	<p>One page of information for Parent Vue, Free and reduced meals, counseling and school websites.</p> <p>English Spanish</p> <p>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. WEBSITE</p>
School Calendar for 2023-2024	<p>Traditional School Calendar SY24 Traditional Adopted 2023-2024 Calendar</p>
Bus Schedules	<p>Schedules with bus stop and time information are located at the links below and on our website.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Bus Information</p>
<p>Summer Backpack Distribution</p> <p>August 16, 2023 1:30-3:00pm</p>	<p>On Wednesday, August 16, 2023, from 1:30-3:00pm school backpacks and supplies will be distributed at Glenallan ES. Please join us to meet staff and pick up a backpack and/or supplies for the start of the year.</p>
<p>New Student Orientation</p> <p>August 24, 2023</p>	<p>On Thursday, August 24, 2023, we will have student orientation for all incoming 6th grade students and any 7th or 8th grade students who are new to Odessa Shannon Middle School. Students will be picked up from their assigned bus stops at normal school times, see bus schedule and pick up times here. The orientation program will last until 12:00 p.m. Students will ride their assigned bus home. We encourage all students new to Odessa Shannon Middle School to attend this orientation so that they can meet their teachers, learn the layout of the school building and get a head start for the school year.</p>

OSMS WolfPack Fair August 24, 2023 5-7pm	We will hold our first annual Wolfpack Community Fair on August 24, 2023 from 5-7pm. Please come out and meet staff members and find out what resources are available to our families. Please see the OSMS Fair flier for more information.
OSMS Back to School Night September 6, 2023	OSMS will have our Back To School Night on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 from 6:30- 8 PM . This is the opportunity to meet the teachers, counselors, and get any necessary information you may need for your child's academic success.
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-3:00 p.m. If students are not able to attend classes please email Ms. Yohana Martinez, attendance secretary at Johana S MartinezMartinez@mcpsmd.org 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.</p> <p>Students are not supervised in the building until 7:45 a.m., therefore students should not be dropped off before this time as it is a safety concern. Students will remain outside until 7:45 AM 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>
Cafeteria (Breakfast and Lunch) Information	<p>This school year OSMS was chosen as one of the 57 schools that will participate in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) which means that every enrolled 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: www.MySchoolApps.com</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>
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</p>

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>
Immunizations	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. We will host a free immunization clinic for any MCPS student that needs to have one on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 4-6 PM.
School Supply List	A suggested supply list is posted on our website and here. Suggested School Supply List
Chrome books	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 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.
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, 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.
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.
Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)	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: odessashannon.ptsa.president@gmail.com
Sunday Message to the Community	During the school year we will send messages on Sunday evenings through Connect Ed 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. .

