

Good Afternoon, this is Steve Mares, principal of Athens Drive Magnet High School with announcements for the upcoming week. A copy of this message will be posted on our school website and emailed to the PTSA email groups.

Please understand how sorry, disheartened, and saddened I am that our school family members have had to deal with concerns about our students' safety and well-being while they are at school. Please know that I do understand those concerns, and as the principal at Athens Drive I do know that I am responsible for our students' safety each and every day. There is no responsibility that I take more serious. I hope that you will trust our efforts to provide not only a school environment that is safe and orderly, but one that is rigorous and challenges our students to reach their ultimate potential. I also know that trust needs to be earned every day, and I plan on earning that trust. While I have spoken with many of you over the last few days with regards to your concerns and questions you have had, I know that there might still be a need for us to gather and for you to hear from me and our school family members about how we take care of your students. While I cannot, and would not, share information that would in any way be inappropriate or provide information about any of our students, I do want to be available to respond to any questions or concerns that you may have. Thus, we have a PTSA meeting already scheduled for Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m. I have spoken with Ms. Romney, our PTSA President, and we are going to start the meeting by having a discussion and question and answer opportunity for our school family members. I have asked the following people to be with me at this meeting to be sure we respond to questions and we provide responses from a variety of perspectives: our School Resource Officer, Raleigh Police Officer Ide; Wake County Public School System Security Official; Mr. Katz, Assistant Principal and father of a son at Athens Drive; Mr. Remaley, our Student Government Advisor and father of a son at Athens Drive; Ms. Nedoma, a Teacher and mother of a daughter at Athens Drive; and Ms. Burlison, our School Improvement Team Chair. Again, please know that all of us at Athens Drive care passionately about our students.

Please know that Third Quarter Report Cards were sent home today with students.

Please remember that today, Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, is our last day of school prior to Spring Break. Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> begins our Spring Break and there is no school for students until the following Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Students received their course verification sheets for the 2017 - 2018 school year this morning, Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please review the verification form to ensure your student is registered for the correct courses. If a student receives a blank verification sheet, that means he/she did not register for classes. In that case, students will need to complete the form indicating the 8 primary courses and 3 alternate courses they would like to register for. Please complete the paperwork and have your student return it to his/her Second Period teacher by Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. If students have courses and would like to make changes to the request, they will need to make corrections on the verification sheet (registration in PowerSchool is now closed) and return the completed form to their Second Period teacher by Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. If students still do not have any classes as of Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, classes will be selected for them and they will not be able to be changed.

Attention rising Seniors in our Class of 2018, if you are interested in Graduating mid-year next year or would like to apply for an early release/late arrival, forms are available in the Student Services office. Please complete the appropriate forms and return them to the Student Services office by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Current Seniors, we are excited about celebrating our upcoming Graduation with you all! To ensure that all students' names are correct on their Diploma we are asking that all seniors come by the Student Services Office by Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> to verify the spelling of their name. The name that is on the student's official birth certificate will be the name that will be printed on the Diploma.

Seniors, applications for the State Employees People Helping People Scholarship is available on the Athens Drive website. If you are interested in applying for this Scholarship, please complete the application in its' entirety. The deadline to submit all materials is Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Please return all application materials to Student Services. Students selected for Interviews will be notified by Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and Interviews will begin on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

A special shout-out to our incredible PTSA Grounds Committee for hosting our Spring Beautification Day last weekend! Our school grounds look so much better and I thank all of our students, staff, and family members who came out to beautify our campus!

Please be aware that Summer Drivers Education forms are now available in the Front Office.

When we return from Spring Break, we get right back into the swing of things with our athletic competitions. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website ([www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs](http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs)) to find out game dates and times for all of our Spring athletic events.

Those are all of the announcements for this week. Please continue to check the Athens Drive website ([www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs](http://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs)) for general information to help you stay informed.

Please let me take a moment to thank each of you for your support of our students, staff, and our school. Please know that all of us at Athens Drive understand the privilege and honor we have of teaching your student. Thank you for placing your trust in us to teach your student and help him/her reach his/her ultimate potential! I continue to be thankful to be a part of such an amazing school family. Whether your Spring Break plans include travel away from Raleigh or you will be staying in town, I hope each of you has a safe, enjoyable, and fun Spring Break! Please enjoy this special time with your family! Go JAGS and please take care.