

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

What a great day to be a JAG yesterday at our Freshman Camp! There was such a positive spirit, and it was outstanding to see our “house” come back to life with students and families as we look to start our school year! We had over 400 new Jaguars in our school and many family members here to begin the transition to high school. I was thankful for the outstanding efforts of our staff, PTSA leaders, Student Government, Band, Chorus, Club representatives, coaches, student athletes, and everyone who helped contribute to a fantastic kick-off for our students and families. Another big welcome to the Class of 2021 and please know what an honor and pleasure it is for us to serve your family! We are excited about the **Drive for Excellence** this year at Athens, and I look forward to another great year of teaching and learning!

Just a reminder that our First Day of School is on Monday, August 28th! Students, please know that we will start the first day of school in our new Homeroom class, known as Drive Time, beginning at 7:25 a.m.

We will have the same start and end time for school again for the 2017 – 2018 school year. **School will start at 7:25 a.m. every morning and end at 2:18 p.m.** Please know that First Period begins promptly at 7:25 a.m. and students are expected to be in class, ready to learn at 7:25 a.m. each day. For the first 10 days of school, students will have a Drive Time Class so that we can share important information and begin the year on a positive note. After those first 10 days, students will only attend their Drive Time Class on Tuesdays and for a few days when Report Cards come out. Please visit our website to see the daily schedule for the school year.

I am sure that everybody has now seen their 2017 – 2018 schedule that was posted to PowerSchool. Please understand that while the vast majority of students’ schedule will not change, some schedules may see a change as we continue to enroll a large number of students. These are not major changes, but we do work to try to balance class size and also try to meet the needs of our students and what they registered for. Students will receive an official schedule in their Drive Time Class on Monday, August 28th. If your student did submit a Schedule Change Request form, please know that we are working our way through those requests and we will make the changes we can and need to make to support our students. Thank you for your continued support as we work to create a Master Schedule that serves our students’ needs.

If your student will be riding the bus to school, students and families that have transportation eligible bus riders can find our new bus routes for the 2017 – 2018 school year posted online at <http://www.wcpss.net/routes>. Please click the Bus Routes link. Look for Athens Drive High School on this page and click the link to find our bus routes. Please find the intersection nearest your residence and that will be your bus stop. Please be familiar with your bus route and plan to get to your bus stop at least 10 minutes early. Wake County Public School System will also share your student’s transportation route, stop, and estimated bus arrival time by email and make it available on-line in PowerSchool. Families can also check bus routes at school if you need too. There are many changes at the start of the new school year as new students begin riding the bus, new bus routes are created, and new drivers are trained. I would ask that you please be patient and understanding with transportation for the first few days of school. Thank you for your support.

As we begin a new school year, I would like to remind all of our students and families to be respectful of our Athens Drive neighbors. Please remind your students to park legally, drive in a safe manner, throw trash away properly in trash cans, and use appropriate language as they walk, drive, and move around our school campus. We want to be responsible and respectful neighbors, and I ask that we all represent The Drive in only the highest manner. Thanks for helping to carry on our tradition of excellence both inside and outside of the classroom!

Parents, I would like to enlist your support in helping us maintain appropriate dress at school. Please be sure that students do not wear strapless shirts and dresses, thin-strapped shirts, tank-tops, short-shorts, and other

clothing that violates the dress code. Hats will also not be allowed to be worn on school grounds. I would ask that we work together in order to be sure our students dress appropriately and focus on learning. We will be focusing on our dress code for the first few weeks of school and I thank you for your support!

If you are interested in supporting Athens Drive Magnet High School in a tangible manner, the PTSA could use your help. With the Graduation of many of our PTSA Board members' students, the PTSA has many opportunities for our new families to be a part of the PTSA and make a significant difference in the teaching and learning at The Drive. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please email our PTSA President, Darlann Romney, at president@athensdriveptsa.com. Thank you for considering to serve in this manner to support our students, families, and school!

Please remember that if you would like to volunteer in any Wake County Public School System school you must register or reactivate prior to helping with any tutoring, office support, PTSA, sports, band, or club activity this school year. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe school climate conducive to learning.

Please put down on your calendar that our Fall Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Wednesday, September 6th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria with a PTSA Meeting.

Our Fall athletic season has already begun! We have our first football game this evening, Friday, August 18th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Cardinal Gibbons High School. Please come out to support our student athletes and be a part of the Athens Drive family! Please check out the Athens Drive Athletic website (<http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs>) for all of our game dates and times. Attending these events is a great way to meet other students and support our school.

Please have a safe, enjoyable weekend, and I hope you enjoy the last week of summer. Go JAGS and please take care.