

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.

Just a reminder that our First Day of School is on Monday, August 28th! 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. Students will receive a new copy of their schedule in their Drive Time Class.

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.

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 also shares your student's transportation information through PowerSchool. Once you've logged into your PowerSchool account, look for the transportation tab to see your student's transportation status and type. 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.

Here Comes the Bus will be coming soon! *Here Comes the Bus* is an easy-to-use website and app that enables you to see the location of your child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. This way, you know when the bus is near your stop. Please see information with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Au9hh6jEA>. The FAQs include instructions on how to download the app on your smartphone or computer. Our families will be provided access to the app several weeks after the start of school for our traditional calendar. I will communicate that information to you when I am notified it is available for all traditional schools. Please know that parents will receive an error message if an account is created early.

With regards to carpool, please be sure that if you are dropping a student off in the morning you enter the school in one of two ways. First, you can enter our "Junior Parking Lot" off of Avent Ferry Road and pull up as far as you can around the curve at the entrance to the Library. The second way to drop your student off is entering our school lot by the Band Room entrance, off of Athens Drive. We ask that you stay to the left as you make your way down and around this one-way loop. Please remember that we also have a number of Special Transportation vehicles that drop students off in this loop in the morning. I ask that you please do not drop students off close to the Band Room entrance, as the backs up traffic for everybody in the morning. I also ask that you do not enter our bus loop area off of Avent Ferry Road, as that is reserved for bus transportation only. Thanks for your help in ensuring the safety of all of our students and staff.

Parents of Seniors, please know that the Wake County Public School System has NOT yet finalized dates for Graduation. As soon as we receive word from the County about our Class of 2018 Graduation date, we will share that information with you. I am sorry that we do not have our final June Graduation date to share yet.

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.

In order to promote the safety of our students and visitors, we have opened up the parking in Jaguar Stadium and closed the parking on Jaguar Drive. It is my hope this move will support the safe arrival and dismissal of our students. 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.

Please remember that we have begun our Fall Athletic Season already. Tonight our Football team has an away game beginning at 7:00 p.m. against Broughton High School. Please remember that next week, due to the Labor Day Weekend, our first home football game of the year will be played on Thursday Night, August 31st, in Jaguar Stadium, against Knightdale High School. Our boys Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Girls Tennis, Girls Golf, Football, and Cheerleading squads have all had great starts to their season! Please check our Athletic Team schedules on our Athens Drive Athletics website (<http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs>) and I hope all of our students and our entire school family come out to support our student athletes and build school spirit!

Those are all of the announcements for this week. As always, I thank you for your incredible support of our school and I look forward to a fantastic school year. I hope each of you has a wonderful weekend and enjoy the last remaining days of summer. Go JAGS and please take care.