

Good afternoon, this is Steve Mares, principal of Athens Drive Magnet High School, with a special announcement for Monday, May 11th. A copy of this special message will be posted on our school website (<https://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs>), emailed and texted to our school families, and linked to the PTSA Athens Alert newsletter (<https://athensdriveptsa.com>).

NEW OR UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRADING INFORMATION: As you are probably aware, Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) will be sending out new final Grading Guidelines for students in Grades Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Grades tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12th. While the information you will receive from WCPSS is comprehensive and explained in detail, I will be sharing information in tomorrow's special message about what it means for us at Athens Drive. Please be on the lookout for a special message tomorrow from me after WCPSS releases the new Grading Guidelines. Thank you!

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS HAVE STARTED: Please remember that AP Exams have started today and will run through Friday, May 22nd. AP Exams will be taken at home and students can visit the [College Board website](https://collegeboard.org) for details. Please remember that students can request a Make-Up Exam through this link: https://education.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1B9R7XJa9dXaQBy. Also, this link is a troubleshooting guide that students can look at as well to assist them on AP Exam day: <https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students/taking-ap-exams/troubleshooting>. I wish our students well on their AP Exams!

SENIOR CAP, GOWN, AND SENIOR YARD SIGN DISTRIBUTION DATE LAST FRIDAY: What a FANTASTIC time to honor our Seniors and celebrate them receiving their Cap, Gown, and Yard Sign! It was so wonderful to see so many of our Seniors and have our staff recognize them in a special way as they picked up their items! Thank you to our Seniors for coming out on Friday and I hope they felt the love!!

GRADUATION: Please know that we are working with WCPSS to explore options for how we can celebrate our Seniors. Based on State guidance and feedback from principals, parents, and students, WCPSS has decided to cancel all 2019 – 2020 traditional, in-person Graduation ceremonies scheduled for June. “Virtual” Graduation videos are one of several considerations regarding how to honor the accomplishments of our Seniors during the traditional June timeframe. Additional school-based, in-person, options are still a possibility, depending on evolving public health guidelines in the coming weeks. We are committed to recognizing our Seniors during the same period in June when we would have hosted Graduations and are working to preserve as many aspects of our traditional Graduation ceremony as possible. We look forward to getting you more details within the next week.

SENIORS—PLEASE KEEP WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH OPEN AS WE ARE PLANNING A SPECIAL EVENT: To continue to find ways to honor and celebrate our Seniors, we are planning an event on May 20th (for the Class of 2020) at 2020 Military Time (which is 8:20 p.m. Standard Time). More information will be forthcoming, but I wanted to be sure that our Seniors keep this date and evening open.

PTSA SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE IS TONIGHT: The PTSA has extended the deadline for its Scholarships and all Scholarship applications are due by tonight. The application can be found on the PTSA's website at this [link](#).

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FORM: We would like to recognize all the accomplishments of the Class of 2020. If your student is receiving any Scholarships (even if they are not accepting the Scholarship!), please complete the [Scholarship Information Form](#). We also gave each Senior a hard copy of this form at the Cap and

Gown distribution event on Friday. Please indicate all Scholarships received on the Scholarship Information form and attach a copy of the Scholarship Award Letter/Notification that was provided by the University/College/Institution/Agency that is sponsoring the Scholarship. All Scholarship Information forms must be completed and submitted to Ms. Telfair (stelfair@wcpss.net) or Ms. Boothe (kboothe@wcpss.net) by Friday, May 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Telfair or Ms. Boothe via email.

FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHROMEBOOKS AND HOTSPOTS TOMORROW, TUESDAY, MAY 12TH: We will be holding our final Chromebook and Hotspot Distribution event tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12th, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Library. If you still have not received your Chromebook and/or Hotspot, please come to this distribution event to receive them. We have approximately 50 Chromebooks and 90 Hotspots to distribute and we will distribute them on a first-come, first-served basis.

ATHLETIC UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT COLLECTION TOMORROW, TUESDAY, MAY 12TH: Please remember that we are hosting an Athletic Uniform and Equipment Collection tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12th, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in front of Jaguar Stadium. We are asking that our student athletes drive-thru and return all uniforms, equipment, etc. that they may have that needs to be returned to the school. We are asking that our student athletes use the last entrance to our Stadium Parking Lot and pull around to the entrance to the stadium. We will have all our coaches there to collect uniforms and equipment from our student athletes. Student athletes will not need to leave their vehicles, as this will be a drive-thru event with coaches maintaining social distancing standards. Thank you for your assistance in helping us collect these items.

STUDENT PARKING REFUND INFORMATION DUE BY THIS FRIDAY, MAY 15TH: Due to the Governor's Executive Order requiring our schools to close for the remainder of the school year, families will be given the option to request a refund for the unused portion of student Parking Permits. The refund amount will be \$60.00 to reimburse for 3 months of Remote Learning. Families will have the following options regarding this refund:

1. Allow the refund to carry over to the next school year (This does not guarantee a spot).
2. Receive a refund check.
3. Donate the \$60 refund to the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS).

Please email Ms. Madeline Guzman (mguzman@wcpss.net), our Bookkeeper, or send a letter through the mail to our school (Athens Drive Magnet High School Attention: Madeline Guzman 1420 Athens Drive Raleigh, NC 27606), with the following information:

- Student Name
- Parking Space Number
- Choice of refund (e.g., carryover to next year, receive a refund check, donate to WCPSS)
- Parent Name (who to make the check out to if you want a refund check)
- Address (to mail refund check if selected that option)

This information needs to come from the Parent's email account, and we need to receive this information by Friday, May 15th to process all refunds. Thank you for your timely response to this information.

ATHLETIC AWARDS WILL BE ANNOUNCED VIA TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM: As part of our continuing efforts to recognize the excellence in our students, our Athletic Awards will be announced via Twitter and Instagram this year. Please know that both our Athletic Twitter and Instagram accounts are @athensjags. We are going to release our Athletic Department Award winners throughout the day on Wednesday, May 20th. In addition, starting this week, we are going to announce all the student athletes who have signed College Letter of

Intents this year, releasing a few each day. So, starting this Wednesday and lasting until the end of May, we will be announcing something with regards to our Athletics almost daily. We would love to have as many family members following these accounts so that you all can honor our outstanding student athletes!

YEARBOOK, HONOR STOLES, HONOR CORDS DISTRIBUTION EVENT: Once we have a date that we will receive our Yearbooks, we will be scheduling a Yearbook, Honor Stoles, and Honor Cords distribution. Please know that this date will most likely fall during the last week of May or the first week of June. As soon as we have finalized a date and time for this event, we will communicate to our school family.

COLLECTING TEXTBOOKS, LIBRARY BOOKS, ETC. AND ALLOWING STUDENTS TO RETRIEVE ITEMS THEY HAVE AT SCHOOL: Please know that WCPSS is working on processes for schools to follow to allow students to return textbooks, library books, etc. that belong to the school. In addition, WCPSS will also be giving us processes to follow to allow students one more opportunity for coming to school and collecting any items that are still here at school that belong to them. I will keep you posted as to when we will schedule this event.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR: Please remember that the State Legislature decided last week that all Traditional Calendar schools will begin the 2020 – 2021 school year on Monday, August 17th, 2020. As you make plans for the summer and in August, please remember this new school start date. Please also know that for the 2020 – 2021 school year, school will end on June 11th, 2021.

BUS RIDER INFORMATION FOR THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR: Please know that Bus Rider registration opened today, Monday, May 11th. Students who rode a bus to school this year will be notified via School Messenger tomorrow, May 12th, about the process. Please understand that while we still do not know for sure the impact COVID-19 may have on our schedule for the coming school year, WCPSS still needs to begin the process of planning bus routes to accommodate our students. The biggest piece of information to remember is that if your student is eligible for Transportation to Athens Drive Magnet High School and will be riding the bus to Athens again next year, you do not need to do anything. However, if you need to update your bus service needs for the 2020 -2021 school year, please go to www.wcpss.net/busrider and let WCPSS know. Additionally, if your student is assigned to a bus but is not a bus rider, please submit the decline bus form at www.wcpss.net/declinebus so that WCPSS has the most up-to-date information to plan routes. Finally, as you think about riding the bus, please know that WCPSS will assure student safety by taking all measures recommended by public health officials with regards to Bus Transportation.

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND TAKE CARE: I recognize that I send home a lot of information in my messages. I appreciate your reading these messages so that we all are on the same page as things change, are updated, and as we begin to come to the end of the 2019 – 2020 school year! Thank you for your support of our efforts to finish this year in positive ways despite the COVID-19 pandemic. I am honored to serve you all and look forward to recognizing so many of our students in the coming month! I hope all our Mother's had a tremendous day yesterday—you deserve to be honored and appreciated! Please continue to be safe and take care of yourselves, your loved ones, and each other. **GO JAGS!**

REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS SPECIAL MESSAGES THAT I HAVE NOT UPDATED:

SENIOR INTENT FORM—ALL SENIORS MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM! All Seniors are required to complete a Senior Intent form before Graduation. The deadline has passed, and we have not received a form for

each Senior. Please complete the [Senior Intent Form](#) and submit it as soon as possible. Please be sure to complete the form accurately and correctly. Please know that part of this form will be utilized to ensure that each Seniors' name is printed correctly on their Diploma. We are asking Seniors to verify their full legal name (name that appears on their Birth Certificate). This information will be verified against the Birth Certificate in each Seniors' cumulative record. The name that appears on the student's Birth Certificate will be the name that will be printed on the Diploma. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Ms. Brown (tbrown3@wcpss.net), our Dean of Students.

INFORMATION ON COVID-19 FROM WCPSS: A good website to stay up-to-date on information from WCPSS can be found at this [link](#). This page shares information and launches you to other sites for additional information regarding Remote Learning, Resources, etc.

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING A DRIVER'S ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE: To meet the needs of our students and families, we will be implementing the following process to allow students to receive a Driver's Eligibility Certificate (DEC) while our school building is closed due to COVID-19. Please remember that DEC's are only valid for 30 days; therefore, students are only eligible to receive a DEC during this time if they have a **confirmed appointment with the NCDMV within 30 days of the date of the request**. You will start by sending an email request to Ms. Teresa Brown (tbrown3@wcpss.net), Dean of Students, and include the email from NCDMV confirming the date/time of the appointment. You will receive an email confirming the date/time you can come to the high school to receive the DEC. Once your appointment is confirmed with us, the following steps will be taken:

- Step 1: Scan or take a photo of the following:
 - Student's birth certificate or passport
 - Completed Driver's Education Certificate (if it has not been emailed ahead of time)
 - Proof of address if the current address is different than the one listed on the Driver's Education Certificate or the address listed in PowerSchool. Address must be verified for the NC Real ID.
 - Email this information to Ms. Brown, our designated contact at the school. This will limit the amount of paper that has to be exchanged by staff and students. If you are unable to scan or take a photo of the document, then you will need to bring all these documents with you to the appointment.
- Step 2: Bring the following documents to the appointment:
 - Student's birth certificate or passport
 - Completed Driver's Education Certificate (if it has not been emailed ahead of time)
 - Proof of address if the current address is different than the one listed on the Driver's Education Certificate or the address listed in PowerSchool. Address must be verified for the NC Real ID.
- Step 3: Receiving the DEC:
 - Once you arrive for your appointment, a staff member will meet you at the front door of the school (entrance by the flagpole) to receive the DEC. It is important that we limit the amount of direct contact and maintain at least 6 feet of social distance. For this reason, please limit the number of family members (preferably just the student and a parent or guardian) who attend the appointment. Please arrive at the school promptly for your scheduled appointment to ensure that we can follow the social distancing guidelines that have been established.
 - Staff will check the student's grades for adequate progress. The student must have passed 70% of the courses taken in the prior semester to receive a DEC.
 - Once grades have been verified and all other documents are in place, the DEC can be issued to the student.

Thank you for your understanding and support of this new process to continue to provide DEC's to our students.

HOW DO YOU GET TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR YOUR STUDENT? Wake County Public School System has set up a variety of ways to support our students during our Remote Learning:

- If our students are having technology issues, please have them contact the Remote Learning Help Desk at <http://studenttechhelp.wcpss.net> or call 919-694-8100 (Interpreters available).
- There are many helpful guides for families on the [Technology Support for Families](#) page on Remote Learning site.
- Many common technology questions from families are answered on the [Remote Learning Help Desk FAQ](#).

Please know that we are committed to supporting our students and families during this school closure and Remote Learning!

PANDEMIC ELECTRONIC BENEFITS PROGRAM (P-EBT) FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES: Please know that North Carolina has approved the distribution of additional resources to families receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch. The additional benefits will be through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program to help families buy food during the COVID-19 school closure. Please visit this [website](#) for additional information on this program.

APPLYING FOR FEDERAL FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS: I do understand that many of our families are struggling during this COVID-19 pandemic and many families' economic and employment situations have changed during this pandemic. Please know that families can apply at any time for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch, which may then also qualify a family for other State and/or Federal benefit programs. Please visit this [website](#) for additional information on applying for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch.

INTERVENTION TEAM READY TO ASSIST STUDENTS: Please remember that our Intervention Team is holding Office Hours on Friday to assist our students who may need additional help. Any student can access these Office Hours to get assistance with course work, logging into wakeid, navigating Remote Learning, etc. To log-in to these Office Hours, students need to go to: <https://meet/google.com/> and from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.: Nickname: udrive1jlowry and from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.: Nickname: udrive2stephenson. Again, this is every Friday to provide any assistance our students may need.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: I want to remind our school family that we continue to provide our Food Distribution services to our school families and local community Monday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please know that an updated list of all Food Distribution sites can be found at this [link](#). Please continue to share this information with anybody in our community, whether they are students of ours or not, who need this resource during these challenging times. Thank you for your help in taking care of our school families and our community!