

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.

I first want to let all of our school families know that this morning, Wake County Public School System Security Staff, working with the Raleigh Police Department, visited our school today as part of our effort to keep illegal drugs out of our school. Law enforcement used drug dogs to check classrooms for any contraband. Please remember that School Board Policy bans students from possessing, using, selling, or distributing any alcoholic beverages, narcotic drugs, other controlled substances, or products that alter mood or behavior. Students who violate this policy may face criminal charges, as well as school disciplinary consequences. Please know that our school staff and Raleigh Police are working to keep our students and school campus safe. Please understand that we will continue to take every measure to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and school families. Please also know that I continue to be thankful for your support of our efforts.

In conjunction with Wake County Public School System, Athens Drive will be implementing a new process to improve communication between the school and parents. In the past, I have provided you all with communication via a recorded voice message. With the rise of new communication technologies, people are communicating in a variety of different ways. Therefore, I want you to determine the best way for me to communicate with you, either by email or cell phone text message. For now, I will continue with a voice mail recording, but in the future communication via voice message will be reserved for emergency situations only. Starting the week of March 13th, we will be sending you a message via text and/or email using the current information we have on file. I will be posting additional information on our website and you will be receiving communication from me and WCPSS concerning these new service options. Thank you for your efforts to maintain updated contact information on file with us so that we can always contact you with information about your student and/or during any emergency situation.

On Wednesday, March 8th, we will be conducting a Severe Weather drill during school. This drill will help us prepare for any severe weather events that may happen in the Spring while we have students in school. I appreciate our students always taking our various drills seriously as we all prepare for a variety of emergency situations.

On Thursday, March 9th, we have another opportunity for our school family to hear the awesome sounds of our Band. We will be hosting a Band Concert on Thursday, March 9th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in our Auditorium. Admission is free, so come and enjoy the great music from our talented students.

Course registration for the 2017 – 2018 school year has opened and is on-going. I would ask that you please review the course information and the registration packet with your student(s) and discuss the courses they would like to take next year. Please remember that students must select 8 primary courses and 3 alternate courses. In addition, in order to register for classes, students must claim their NC Cloud account. If your student has not done this or has questions on how to claim his/her account, please have your student come to the Students Services office to pick up directions. Our Counselors have started conferencing with our Juniors this week and we will move on to our current Freshmen and Sophomores as well. Please take this process seriously as we build our Master Schedule based on the courses that our students register for at this time.

Please know that our Spring Sports are now in full swing. We normally have at least one of our athletic teams playing a home game each night of the week. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) to find out the most up-to-date game dates and times for all athletic events and come out and support our incredible student athletes.

Those are all of the announcements for this week. Please continue to check the Athens Drive website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs) for general information to help you stay informed. I hope you all enjoy a safe, wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.