

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, emailed and texted to our school families, and e-mailed to the Athens Drive PTSA email group.

Please accept my apologies for my delay in sending out my weekly message to all of you. I sent out an emergency message on Thursday afternoon regarding the incident we are dealing with and I appreciate your reading/listening to it. I am committed to providing a safe school climate that is conducive to learning. But more than that, I am committed to providing a school culture that stands up against this kind of violence and works for a safe, peaceful learning environment that is responsible, respectful, and where we all take care of each other. Please know that we will continue to look at ways to build relationships with students and work together as a school family to build and maintain this safe environment. As the principal, I understand that you, and our students, place your trust in me to ensure the safety and well-being of our students each day. Please understand that I will continue to work to earn that trust and allow our students to have a great day of teaching and learning each day without worrying about their safety. Understand that as we continue to investigate the fight, I do believe that this is an isolated incident, and we are working to determine appropriate disciplinary action for the students involved. Raleigh Police is also continuing to investigate to determine criminal actions involved in the altercation. As I told our student body on Friday, please know that while the fight we had was absolutely unacceptable and something like that cannot happen again, I am committed to not letting it define us or stop us from continuing the amazing achievements that our committed staff and dedicated students are producing.

I also want to ask your help in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, staff, school, and visitors. We have noticed students are remaining after school for a variety of reasons who are not under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach, or other responsible adult on campus. At the end of our instructional day, only those students who are under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach, or other responsible adult can remain on campus. Students can go to the Library immediately after school, but they must remain in the Library and follow all the rules and policies of the Public Library. Students who do not follow these directions will not be allowed to remain after school once the final bell rings at 2:18 p.m. Thank you for your support.

Please remember that Fourth Quarter Report Cards came home yesterday, Friday, April 13th, with your student. Please be sure to talk with your student about his/her achievement, and remind him/her that there is still a lot of time left to finish the year strong! Please know we appreciate the support you provide for us to work together to help all our students reach their ultimate potential!

I want to give a huge shout-out to the large group of students, parents, and volunteers that we have on campus today helping us with our Spring Beautification Day! I appreciate so much the support of our PTSA and entire school family and thank all our volunteers for sharing your time and talents to make our school shine!

Mr. Remaley and I will be meeting with our Senior Class on Monday, April 16th, during Drive Time. It is hard to believe that we only have 34 instructional days and then 5 days of Final Exams left in the school year! We look forward to discussing year-end activities, Graduation requirements, and expectations with our Seniors. Thank you for your efforts to help us keep our Seniors grounded and focused on finishing on a high note as we celebrate Graduation together on June 12th at 12:00 p.m.!

I would like to share that in honor of National Service Week, the Faculty and Staff of both Athens Drive and Cary High Schools will be competing in a Basketball Game to raise money for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Cary High School will host the game that will pit our own Faculty and Staff against the Faculty and Staff of Cary High School. The game is scheduled to be played on Wednesday, April 18th, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in Cary's Gym. The cost of admission is 2 cans of food. Please come out and support this fun way to raise food for a very important cause!

Please know that we will be posting the Final Exam schedule for the end of the Second Semester on the Athens Drive Magnet High School website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs). Final Exams will begin on Monday, June 4th and continue through Friday, June 8th. Please remember that Wake County Public School System has canceled the Inclement Weather Make-Up Day for Monday, June 11th. Thus, there is no school for students on Monday, June 11th. The last day of classes for students is Friday, June 1st. Then, Final Exams are the week of

June 4th through June 8th, and students only need to come to school if they have a Final Exam scheduled. Due to the number of testing sessions we have for all our Final Exams, students should not come to school if they do not have a Final Exam scheduled.

Athens Drive and the Wake County Public School System are conducting a family survey, and we want to hear from you. The survey officially launched on April 2nd, and will remain open through May 4th, and if your email is on file with Athens Drive, please be on the lookout for an email from Panorama Education. This e-mail will contain a link and instructions for completing this brief confidential survey that will help us to better serve our students and our school family. Thank you for your support in completing this survey.

Advanced Placement (AP) testing will be administered from May 7th through May 18th. Students that have registered to take AP exams this school year will be receiving email updates throughout April and May with details regarding the test administration. We suggest that students check the email that they provided during AP registration daily for updates. If you have any questions regarding AP exams please contact Ms. Brown in Students Services.

I want to remind you to put April 25th through April 27th on your calendar. The Athens Drive Theatre Department is deep into the rehearsal process for their much-anticipated spring musical, *In the Heights*! *In the Heights* tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood-a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the warm breeze carries the melodic rhythms of three generations of music. It is a story about a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams, and financial pressures. At its core, it is an ode to self-discovery and references how some of life's biggest struggles center on deciding which cultural traditions you take with you and which ones you choose to leave behind. *In the Heights* was Lin-Manuel Miranda's first success (you might know his name...he wrote *Hamilton*) and was the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography, and Best Orchestration. Athens Drive has never produced anything quite like this and you will be in awe of our incredibly talented cast and crew of students! This is not a show you will want to miss! Performances begin at 7:00 p.m. each night of Wednesday, April 25th through Friday, April 27th. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the door. You may want to arrive early as we are expecting big crowds. Please know that due to some strong language in the show, this Musical is not recommended for children under the age of 12. I am very proud of the hard work our students have been putting in preparing for this Musical!

To encourage all students to come out and support their peers and enjoy a great night of the Arts, there will be a student rush on Wednesday, April 25th with reduced ticket prices for high school students for the Spring Musical. The reduced price for students, **with a valid student ID**, on Wednesday, April 25th, will be \$8.00. For all other performances, tickets will cost \$10.00.

It is that time of year again to enjoy the delicious BBQ and Fried Chicken at the annual Athens Drive Band Spring BBQ! The BBQ returns to the Masonic Lodge on Tryon Road, right across from Swift Creek Elementary, on Friday, April 27th. You can also enjoy BBQ at the Athens Drive Theatre's presentation of *In the Heights*, for \$1.00 discount off admission! Find more information on the Band's website (athensdriveband.com) and thank you for your support!

Athens Drive Theatre and Athens Drive Band Present... Dinner and a Show! On Friday, April 27th, come early for a delicious BBQ dinner, then enjoy the show! Get a ticket discount and dinner of BBQ (delivered for your enjoyment) BEFORE the 7:00 p.m. performance of *In the Heights*. Pre-orders (with full payment) will be accepted until 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24th.

Please join the JAG Club and the entire Athens Drive family for a benefit BBQ featuring The Embers in concert. The event will take place on Sunday, May 6th (rain or shine) from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Morris Peaceland Farm located at 4200 Graham Newton Road, and is sponsored by Jim Leonard with UBS, Financial Services. Tickets are on sale now, \$25.00 per person or \$20.00 for Athens employees. Purchase tickets online at athensdrivejagclub.org. Ticket includes dinner and the concert. The JAG Club will also have a silent auction, wine pull, and adult beverages for purchase at the event. It is sure to be the event of the season! Anyone is

welcome to attend so please invite your friends. Please contact Peggy Cheek (cheek2101@[gmail.com](mailto:cheek2101@gmail.com)) or Jill Tate (gagrits306@gmail.com) for more information.

Also, mark your calendars for the JAG Club annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 13th. This will be a fun day of golf and dinner for the participants. General and registration information will be posted on the JAG Club website. Thank you for your support!

Any of our rising Seniors who are in the Class of 2019 and who are interested in Graduating Mid-Year, or would like to apply for Early Release/Late Arrival for the 2018 – 2019 school year, forms are available in the Student Services office. Please complete the appropriate forms and return them to the Student Services office by June 4th.

Course registration for the 2018 – 2019 school year continues to move forward. Counselors are conducting Registration/Academic meetings with rising Sophomores in small groups through April 26th. Please be talking with your student about the courses they are selecting for next year as we work to ensure that all our students are on a path to Graduate and reach their goals.

Please continue to support all our student athletes competing in our Spring sports! Senior Nights, final Conference games, and Conference championship games and meets are approaching and these are special times. Enjoy the beautiful weather, watch some exciting and entertaining sporting events, and support our talented student athletes. Please be sure to check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) to see the most updated schedule for our Spring sports and come out and support our incredible student athletes.

Those are all 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. Please have a wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.