

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 (<https://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs>), emailed and texted to our school families, and linked to the PTSA Athens Alert newsletter (<https://athensdriveptsa.com>).

Please know that Wednesday, May 1st is now a Teacher Workday and there is no school for students on Wednesday, May 1st. Please know that no make-up day for students is required for this change in our instructional calendar, as we have accumulated over the necessary instructional hours for the year.

I hope you all received my special message that I sent earlier in the week to announce our Honors Recognition Ceremonies that we will be hosting to recognize those students who are achieving at a high academic standard. In cooperation with the PTSA, we will be honoring those students who have cumulative Grade Point Averages of 3.0 and higher at our Honors Recognition Ceremonies. In Drive Time today, students received invitations to attend these ceremonies. Please remember that there will be four short Honors Recognition Programs—one for each Class at the following days/times:

- Freshmen: Tuesday, April 30th, from 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
- Sophomores: Tuesday, April 30th, from 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
- Juniors: Thursday, May 2nd, from 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
- Seniors: Thursday, May 2nd, from 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Students will receive their certificate in the period when their Honors Reception Ceremony will be held, and they will use that certificate as their ticket out of class and into the Honors Recognition Ceremony. After the ceremony the students will have time to get a cookie and refreshments to celebrate. The students will then be released to return to class. We certainly invite our parents and families to attend these ceremonies. We are excited to add these programs to our school traditions to honor the hard work and academic achievement of our students! The PTSA is asking for donations and volunteers to assist with these ceremonies. They are asking that families sign-up to send in two dozen cookies or small bottles of water. Refreshments for the Freshman and Sophomore ceremonies should be brought in to the Main Office on Monday, April 29th; and refreshments for the Junior and Senior ceremonies should be brought in to the Main Office on Tuesday, April 30th. Volunteers are needed for each ceremony to help with distributing the programs and setting up the refreshment tables. Please use the [This Sign Up Genius link](#) to assist with our Honors Recognition Ceremony. Thank you.

Please know that there are only 25 more instructional days until we begin our Final Exams. The Final Exam Schedule for Second Semester Final Exams on our website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs). Please remember that students should only come to school when they need to take a Final Exam—they do not need to attend school if they do not have a Final Exam Scheduled. It is imperative that students take all their Final Exams, as they do count 20% of a students' final grade for the course. I would ask that you please help us encourage all our students to finish this year strong and to begin to prepare for AP Exams and Final Exams. There is still a lot of time to do good work, and I want our students to finish the year on a positive note. Thank you for your assistance in helping us ensure that we test every student and have a successful end to the Second Semester.

Senior Parents, the journey to Graduation is getting shorter! Please take time to talk to your Senior about the following items they have been working on in their Senior Drive Time class: (1) the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) Graduation Intent Survey; (2) the Athens Drive Senior Awards Assembly information regarding any and all scholarships awarded; (3) SENIORGRAM from Mr. Remaley regarding how to request extra tickets for Graduation; and (4) their need to indicate their "After Graduation Destination" on a copy of the Diploma list. If you have any questions regarding any of these items, then please contact Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net). There are some exciting events and activities planned for the remainder of the year for our Seniors, and if you want to make sure you don't miss any important announcements or events, then please join Mr. Remaley's Senior text message group! Text the message: @theremaley to the number: 81010 to join today! Thank you for helping us work with every Senior to not only Graduate on June 12th, but make these final days of school ones that they will remember in a positive light! I would also ask that we work together to monitor our Senior's progress towards keeping his/her grades up, paying fees and fines owed, and in finishing the year strong. I want to ensure all our Seniors Graduate, are eligible to participate in all Senior activities, and finish their Senior year with excellence.

Our Chorus, Orchestra, and Band will be performing at the Cary Music & Arts Festival held at the Koka Booth Amphitheatre in Regency Park on Sunday, April 28th. The Chorus will be performing at approximately 3:00 p.m. and our Band and Orchestra will be performing at approximately 7:00 p.m. Many ensembles from local schools will be performing along with our award-winning programs. The event is free to the public to attend, so bring a blanket or some outdoor chairs and make an afternoon out of it and see some of the many talented groups that will be performing! It will be a fun day filled with amazing student musicians!

The Athens Drive Prom will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Raleigh on Saturday, May 4th from 8:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. Students who purchased tickets online must pick their ticket(s) up in the Gym Lobby after school starting on Monday, April 29th. Students who are paying in cash for their ticket(s) can do so in the Gym Lobby after school starting on Monday, April 29th. Any questions about the prom please contact Mr. Maxwell (smaxwell@wcpss.net).

Our next PTSA Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 30th, from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., in the Athens Drive Library. Please come out and learn about the myriad of ways the PTSA supports our school!

The honors Theatre class is producing their very own charity Variety Show! Please join them on Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium for a celebration of the decades. Though this is a free event, there is a suggested donation of \$5.00, with all proceeds going towards the Athens Drive Backpack Buddies. All ages are welcome to attend this show and watch our incredible students perform.

Thank you to the over 200 families that have taken the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) Districtwide Family Survey. If you have not taken the survey yet, I ask that you please do so by next Friday, May 3rd. Please know that we use the results of the survey to learn more about you and your child's experiences in our schools. Please know that your responses on this Family Survey will be confidential and only reported in combination with other responses. No one will be able to see individual responses from any parent or guardian. Please know that we do use the Family Survey data to help us continue to improve our school climate and the teaching and learning at Athens Drive Magnet High School. The Family Survey will remain open through Friday, May 3rd, 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. We also have a link on our website for the Family Survey (<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/wakecounty/athens/surveys?language=en>). I ask that you please take 10 – 15 minutes to complete the Family Survey between now and Friday, May 3rd. Thank you for your support in helping us to continue to find ways to best meet the needs of all students and families and help every student reach his/her potential.

Please remember that Summer Driver Education registration is now open. Priority registration has ended, but we will continue to accept registrations on a first-come-first-serve basis until all classes are full. Forms and schedules are available in the Main Office and online at the Jordan Driving School website (<http://jordandriving.com/>).

Our JAG Club is once again sponsoring a Benefit BBQ to support Athens Drive Athletics. On Sunday, May 5th, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., the Embers will be performing at the Morris Peaceland Farm on Graham Newton Road and there will be BBQ, drinks, dancing, and a silent auction all to bring our school family together and raise funds for our Athletic Program. Tickets can be purchased on the JAG Club webpage (www.athensdrivejagclub.org) and are \$25.00 per person. Tickets sold at the door will be \$35.00. Thank you for your support of our student athletes!

Advance Placement (AP) testing will start in May. AP tests will be administered from May 6th through May 17th. Students who have registered to take AP exams this school year will be receiving email updates throughout April and May with details regarding the test administration. I highly 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 Mrs. Brown (tbrown@wcpss.net or 919-233-4050 x24898) or Ms. Boothe (kboothe@wcpss.net or 919-233-4050 x24894) in Students Services.

Jostens will return to campus for the last time on Tuesday, May 7th to deliver Caps and Gowns. If any of our Seniors have not ordered their Cap and Gown yet, they need to do so by May 3rd, otherwise the cost will increase. Ordering can be done online by going to www.jostens.com and selecting Athens Drive Magnet High School. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net).

Class 2020 (this year's Juniors), if you are interested in Graduating mid-year (at the end of the First Semester) or you would like to apply for Late Arrival (no First Period class) or Early Release (no Fourth Period class) for the 2019 – 2020 school year, forms are available in the Student Services office. Please complete the appropriate forms and return to the Student Services office by June 4th so that we can ensure your schedule is correct for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

As part of our 40th Anniversary celebration, we are starting a 40 for 40 campaign. Through this effort we are asking that our school family members (past and present) donate \$40.00 dollars for our 40 years of history to provide funding for our current student and staff needs and begin to fund a new Scholarship Fund for our Graduating Jaguar students who are planning to attend college, major in Education, and become teachers. We are hoping that through this campaign we can make a positive difference now and help create a legacy for the future. If you would like to contribute, please visit the campaign link at: <http://bit.ly/athensat40>. Thank you for your consideration in donating and making a difference!

Thank you for your continued support for all our student athletes competing in our Spring sports! Senior Nights, final Conference games, and Conference championship games and meets are happening! 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 final Spring games and our State Playoff schedules.

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. I hope you have a wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.