

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>).

#### **NEW OR UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**THANK YOU FOR A GREAT START TO THE YEAR!** I hope everybody has had an excellent start to the new school year! I am very proud of the outstanding start we have had, and I thank you for your support!

**NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>:** Please remember that Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> is Labor Day and a school Holiday for both students and staff. There is no school on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CLASS MEETINGS:** This week we began our Class meetings to discuss expectations for the year and to remind students of the importance of starting the year strong and finishing the year strong. With regards to our Senior Class meeting, our goal is for every Senior in the Class of 2020 to Graduate on June 10<sup>th</sup>! I look forward to a great year with the leadership of our Seniors! We will complete our Class meetings on Tuesday with the last half of the Freshman Class.

**SENIOR CLASS REMIND SIGN-UP:** Senior parents, Mr. Remaley is our Senior Advisor and he does an outstanding job communicating with our Seniors and Senior families. Please know that now is the time to join Mr. Remaley's Senior Text Message group! You can send the text message: @theremaley to the number 81010 (or you can use 919-800-0977) to sign up today! This is the BEST way to stay current with Senior information, so you don't miss a thing!

**DRESS CODE:** Please know that through our Class meetings and through individual conversations with students, we are trying to remind students about the Dress Code and maintaining appropriate dress at school. Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) has adopted a new [Dress Code Policy](#). Please help us be sure that students do not wear strapless shirts and dresses, tank-tops, short-shorts, clothing that reveals undergarments, and other clothing that violates the dress code. Hats, hoodies, do-rags, and bandanas will also not be allowed to be worn on school grounds. I would ask that we work together to be sure our students dress appropriately and focus on learning. I thank you for your support!

**STUDENTS MUST HAVE A VALID PARKING PASS TO PARK ON CAMPUS:** I would like to ask all students and parents to help us ensure that only those students who have a valid Parking Pass park on campus. We have several students already who are parking on campus who do not have a valid Parking Pass. Please understand that any student who parks on campus must have a Parking Pass and park only in their assigned space. It is important for us to know who is parking in each space and have parent permission for students to drive and park on campus. Please also understand that Athens does not retain any of the money collected for the Parking Passes—the money collected for Parking Passes goes directly to Wake County Public School System and pays for our Security Officer on Campus who patrols the outside of the school. If a Junior or Senior want to purchase a Parking Pass, they can still purchase one. Students interested in securing a Parking pass for the 2019 – 2020 school year should carefully read and follow the guidelines on the application. To complete the Parking Pass Application process, please complete the on-line parking registration. Then, please print & complete the two-page paper application. Please note Parent's signature must be notarized on the second page of the application. Please complete the On-Line Payment to pay for the Parking pass. You will then need to print your On-Line Receipt to include with your application. Please make a clear photocopy of your valid North Carolina Driver's License (permanent photo—a permit temporary license will not be accepted) and vehicle registration(s). Finally, please remember that students must have cleared all fees or fines they have, as a Parking Tag will not be issued if the student has any outstanding fees or fines owed.

**STUDENTS LEAVING CAMPUS FOR LUNCH:** As we discussed in our Class Meetings, Juniors and Seniors who have an approved Off-Campus Lunch Pass are the only students who may leave campus for lunch. A Junior or Senior student cannot leave campus during lunch without having an authorized Off-Campus Lunch Pass. Freshmen and Sophomores are NEVER allowed to leave campus during the school day, unless on an

approved school trip. If a Junior or Senior would like to purchase a Lunch Pass (the cost is \$5.00 for the year), please print and complete the one-page paper application. Please note that the parent's signature must be notarized on the application. Please complete the On-Line Payment to pay for the Off-Campus Lunch pass. You will then need to print your On-Line Receipt to include with your application. Finally, please remember that students must have cleared all fees or fines they have, as an Off-Campus Lunch pass will not be issued if the student has any outstanding fees or fines owed.

**FALL SEMESTER MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT:** Our Fall Semester Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., prior to our Meet the Teacher Night, we will be holding a Senior Parent Meeting and at 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium, and our PTSA will be providing information on how to support our school through volunteering and donating to our PTSA. Thank you for saving this night to engage with our faculty and connect to the school.

**SENIOR PARENT MEETING:** Mr. Remaley and Ms. Brown will be leading a Senior Parent Meeting prior to our Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. until 5:50 p.m. in the Auditorium. Information will be provided to our parents and students to help all our Seniors and their families navigate this final year of High School, understand graduation requirements, communicate with us regarding scholarships, and provide information regarding other important Senior events. Seniors and parents, please know that time is already ticking on getting started on plans for after Graduation!

**SENIOR COUNSELOR MEETINGS:** Senior parents, please know that our Guidance Counselors will be scheduling Senior meetings with all our Seniors. It is important that Seniors attend their Senior meeting in the coming weeks so that they are set-up for success, and we can support them in reaching their post-Athens Drive goals!

**TARDY SWEEP WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK:** A reminder to students and families that our school-wide Tardy Sweep will begin on Wednesday. Our expectation is that students are in class, on-time and ready for learning each period. Students who are continually tardy to class face consequences of In-School-Suspension. Students who skip class potentially face more severe consequences. Let's work together to be sure all our students are in class ready to learn each period this year!

**PTSA INFORMATION:** Our first PTSA Meeting was held on Tuesday night and I appreciated the large number of parents who attended and are getting involved! I attend every meeting as well, and I appreciate the opportunity to share information and receive feedback from our families. I am thankful for all our parents who help in a myriad of ways to support our students, staff, and school! If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please email our PTSA President, Lysa Fulbright, at [president@athensdriveptsa.com](mailto:president@athensdriveptsa.com). Please also continue to check the PTSA website (<https://athensdriveptsa.com>) to get additional information. If you did not receive the Athens Alert email and if you want to be added to the PTSA email list to receive weekly updates and information about what's happening at The Drive, please send your name and email address to Lysa Fulbright at [president@athensdriveptsa.com](mailto:president@athensdriveptsa.com). Thank you for making a positive difference!

**FALL PARENT INFORMATION SESSION:** Please mark your calendars for our Fall Parent Information session led by our Counselors that will be held on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., in the Auditorium. The purpose of this session is to provide parents with information and tools necessary to assist your student transition through high school and beyond. The topics that will be discussed include: How to Apply for Financial Aid, Scholarships, & Grants; College Admission Requirements; How to get Internships and Apprenticeship Opportunities; and other pertinent transition information. We will also have College Admission counselors from various colleges, Military recruiters, and Financial Aid advisors here to answer parent questions. We look forward to working with you to help our students reach their goals after Graduation!

**ATHLETICS:** Please continue to support our student athletes as they compete on the field, track, and court! Our teams have all started the year in an outstanding manner and at least one of our athletic teams is competing almost every night of the week in some sport. We have our first home football game next Friday night beginning at 7:00 p.m. against Enloe High School. Please check our Athletic Team schedules on our Athens

Drive Athletics website (<http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs>) for the game dates and times of all of our athletic events.

**THANK YOU!:** Finally, I would just like to once again thank all our students and parents for an outstanding start to the school year! We appreciate the support you provide, and please know how thankful we are that you allow us to serve your students! I look forward to a fantastic school year! Those are all the announcements for this week. Please continue to check the Athens Drive website ([www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs](http://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs)) for general information and to help you stay informed. I hope each of you has a wonderful long weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.

#### **REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKLY MESSAGES:**

**SAT PREP COURSE:** Our first SAT Prep Course will soon be starting. The course will begin on September 3<sup>rd</sup> so that the students taking the course will be prepared for the SAT that is being administered on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. This course is for Juniors and Seniors and the cost is \$250.00. If your student is interested in enrolling in this course, he/she will need to see Mr. Remaley in Room 2618.

**CARPOOL INFORMATION:** We have added [carpool maps](#) to our website to assist families in understanding where to drop students off in the morning and where to pick students up in the afternoon.

**BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR:** As we begin a new school year, I would like to remind all 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. 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 over 40-year tradition of excellence both inside and outside of the classroom!

**VOLUNTEERING AT ATHENS DRIVE:** Please remember that if you would like to volunteer at Athens Drive, or 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. You can register to Volunteer at a computer in the Library during school hours. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe school climate conducive to learning.

**GRADUATION:** I am fired up to announce that our Graduation date and time for our Class of 2020 has been finalized! Our Seniors will be Graduating on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Reynolds Coliseum! Please note the change in venue for this year—the Class of 2020 will be Graduating at Reynolds Coliseum instead of the Raleigh Convention Center. Please be sure to save this date and time to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2020! In addition, Seniors need to also be sure they attend the mandatory Graduation Rehearsal on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Reynolds Coliseum.

**ATHLETICS—PAWS AND BRICKS:** Our Athletic Booster Club, the JAG Club, will be selling customized bricks and paws at the entrance to JAG Stadium again this year. If you are interested in purchasing one for your student athlete, please visit this link ([Paws and Bricks](#)). If you have questions, contact Diane Huggins ([dianeshuggins@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeshuggins@yahoo.com)).

**ATHLETICS—JAG CLUB:** Are you interested in helping with the JAG Club this year? Please email Lori Airee ([my6blessings@yahoo.com](mailto:my6blessings@yahoo.com)) for more information on how to become involved.

**ATHLETICS—SPORTS PASSES:** Sports passes are now available for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Sports passes are good for admission to all Athens Drive Athletics home events, except for Endowment Games and Playoff Games. You can purchase Sports passes for the coming year at this link (<https://www.athensdrivejagclub.org/membership/>).