

Good Afternoon, this is Steve Mares, principal of Athens Drive Magnet High School with announcements and summer updates for our school families.

WELCOME: First, I would like to give a warm WELCOME TO THE ATHENS DRIVE HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY to our newest Jaguars! I would also like to give a shout-out to our rising Seniors who are moving into their final year of high school! I look forward to serving all of you this year and I am also looking forward to a fantastic school year!

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS EXPLANATION: Throughout the school year, I will be providing weekly announcements on Friday afternoons through text and email messages to our school family members, posting the message on our website under the Principal Message icon, and the PTSA will provide a link to my message on their Athens Alert newsletter. I hope you find this an informative weekly update. If you hear about these messages but are not getting them through email and/or text, please contact our Student Services office (919-233-2050 then press 1 to update your contact information in PowerSchool. Please do not forget to check the Athens Website (<https://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs>) for continual updates and information regarding our school family.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: Please remember that the First Day of School for all students is Monday, August 26th. Students are expected to be in class and ready to learn at 7:25 a.m. I am looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning!

STUDENT SCHEDULES: Please understand that we are continuing to finalize our Master Schedule for the 2019 – 2020 school year. As new students continue to enroll, as we work to ensure students are on course for Graduation, and as we review academic data from last year to ensure students are placed appropriately in courses that move them towards their post-secondary goals, schedules continue to change and are updated. Our plan is to have our student schedules finalized this weekend, and on Monday, August 12th, at 9:00 a.m., we will open them for students to see in PowerSchool. If a student is unable to find his/her schedule in PowerSchool, student schedules will be available for pick-up in the Student Services Office beginning Monday, August 12th through Friday, August 16th. Schedule Change Request forms ([Schedule Change Request form](#)) will be available on the Athens Drive website and in the Student Services office beginning on August 12th. All completed Schedule Change Request forms must be submitted to the Student Services office by Tuesday, August 20th, at 2:30 p.m. Please remember that schedule changes will only be considered for the following reasons:

1. Enrolled in a course you have already completed and received credit.
2. Enrolled in a course for which you have not met the prerequisite.
3. Do not have a full schedule of 4 classes each Semester.
4. Want to move up/drop down a level in a core class (Must have signed Release form if dropping Honors/AP course).
5. Course needed for promotion and/or graduation.

All request for schedule changes must be completed on the Schedule Change form, no exceptions. Counselors will not be available to see students and/or parents who walk in with Schedule Change forms. Please understand that forms will be processed in the order in which they are received.

SENIORS—MID-YEAR GRADUATION: If you are a Senior and are interested in Graduating Mid-Year, forms are available on the Athens website ([Mid-Year Graduation form](#)) and in our Student Services office. The Mid-Year Graduation form must be completed and returned to the Student Services office by 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20th.

SENIORS—EARLY DISMISSAL OR LATE ARRIVAL ON SCHEDULE: If you are interested in having a Late Arrival (No First Period) or Early Dismissal (No Fourth Period) for the 2019 – 2020 school year, that form is posted on the Athens website ([Early Dismissal/Late Arrival form](#)) and is available in our Student Services office. The Early Dismissal or Late Arrival form must be completed and returned to the Student Services office by 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20th.

FRESHMAN CAMP: Our annual Freshman Camp for all new Ninth Grade students will take place on Thursday, August 15th. We also will have sessions for Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors who are new to Athens Drive, so please join us next Thursday! Sign-in and Registration will take place from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. and activities for students will last from 8:00 a.m. until approximately 12:20 p.m. Parents and guardians are invited to stay and attend the Freshman parent meeting that will take place in our Auditorium from 8:05 a.m. until approximately 9:15 a.m. Students and parents will then have the opportunity to walk their schedule to find their classrooms from 12:25 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. I would like to encourage parents and guardians to pre-register your students by visiting the Athens Drive High School website ([Freshman Camp Registration](#)) and click on the Freshman Camp banner. We look forward to a fun and informative day welcoming the newest members of our Jaguar family to The Drive!

PARKING PASS: Parking passes for Juniors and Seniors in good standing for the 2019 – 2020 school year are now available. 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. Parking tags may be picked up Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please know that Parking passes and Off Campus Lunch passes are two separate applications.

OFF-CAMPUS LUNCH PASS: Off-Campus Lunch passes for Juniors and Seniors in good standing for the 2019 – 2020 school year are also now available. 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. To complete this process, 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. Passes may be picked up Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please know that Parking passes and Off Campus Lunch passes are two separate applications.

FALL SEMESTER MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT: Please mark your calendar that our Fall Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Thursday, September 5th, 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., 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.

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 10th, 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 8th, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Reynolds Coliseum.

SENIOR PICTURES: Thank you to all our Seniors who have taken the opportunity at the end of the last school year or during the summer to get their Senior Portraits taken so that we can include their picture in our yearbook! We want to be sure that every rising Senior gets his/her picture taken for them to be included in the yearbook. If your Senior has not had his/her Senior portrait taken, please know that make-up pictures will be held in September by appointment and announcements will be made through Mr. Remaley's Senior information that he will distribute.

BUS TRANSPORTATION: WCPSS student Bus Transportation information will be available in PowerSchool. We are told that Bus Transportation information will be updated and visible for students and families in PowerSchool prior to the start of the school year. When it becomes active, on your PowerSchool account, look for the transportation tab to see your student's transportation status and type. If your student is a bus rider, stop and route information will also be provided. I hope this information makes for a smooth transition to start the year with regards to Bus Transportation.

PTSA: If you are interested in supporting Athens Drive Magnet High School in a tangible manner, the PTSA could use your help. With the Graduation of many of our PTSA Board members' students, the PTSA has many opportunities for our new families to be a part of the PTSA and make a significant difference in the teaching and learning at The Drive. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please email our PTSA President, Lysa Fulbright (president@athensdriveptsa.com). Thank you for considering serving in this manner to support our students, families, and school! In addition, please be sure to become a member of the PTSA. Your membership fees and donations help support all the PTSA's important programs, including Classroom Support Grants, Student Recognition, Senior Scholarships, and more. To join, please visit the PTSA website (<https://athensdriveptsa.com/>) and become a member! Thank you for supporting our students, staff, and school family in this manner!

PTSA—MEETING: The first PTSA Meeting of the Year will be held on Tuesday, August 27th, from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., in the Library. Thank you for putting this on your calendar and connecting to the PTSA to support Athens Drive.

PTSA—STAFF WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST: The PTSA is kindly providing a Welcome Back! Breakfast for staff on Tuesday, August 20th. If you are willing to support this event, please follow this link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ba9ac2aa02-welcome>) to the Sign-Up Genius to volunteer. Thank you for your support!

ATHLETICS—GENERAL: Our Fall Athletic Season has already begun! We have our Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Tennis, and Cross Country teams all beginning competition this coming week. Please check out the Athens Drive Athletic website (<http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs>) for all our game dates and times. Please make sure to sign up for Athletic Department emails to make sure you don't miss any important emails about game schedules, sports passes, and other pertinent information. To sign up for the Athletic Department emails visit the Athens Drive Athletics webpage (<https://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs>) and enter your email and name information at the top of the page. If you have any specific questions regarding our Athletic Program, feel free to email our Athletic Director, Coach Travis Seese (tseese@wcpss.net). Thank you for your positive support of our teams and student athletes!

ATHLETICS—FALL SPORTS PARENT NIGHT: The parent meeting for Fall Sports will be on Tuesday, August 13th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Gym. There will be a General Session for all parents from 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Gym, followed by Break-Out Sessions for each of the Fall Sports programs. Please plan to attend to acquire all the necessary information for the Fall Athletic Season.

ATHLETICS—FALL SPORTS PICTURE DAY: Picture day for all Fall Sports will be held on Monday, August 12th. Picture forms were sent home this week with our student athletes this week.

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).

ATHLETICS—JAG CLUB: Are you interested in helping with the JAG Club this year? Please email Lori Airee (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/>).

THANK YOU: As we start this new year, I want to thank each one of you for allowing us the honor and pleasure of serving your student! Please know that I understand the great responsibility that you place on us, and please know that we are passionate about providing all our students a safe, inviting, and rigorous school climate where our students can build on their strengths and interests and reach their ultimate potential. I believe in our teachers, I believe in our students, and I believe that we have a school family that cares and supports students. Please know that we are committed to working hard this year to challenge each student, meet their individual needs, and help each student successfully Graduate and reach their full potential. I understand and am thankful for the privilege I have to serve you all, and I continue to be proud to be a part of the Athens Drive family. Again, I would like to welcome all our new students and families to the Athens Drive High School family! We have a great school family, and I am excited about this coming year of teaching and learning! Please continue to check the Athens Drive website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs) for general information and to help you stay informed. I hope your summer is going well, stay cool in this heat, and enjoy the last few days of summer prior to the first day of school on August 26th! Go JAGS and please take care.