

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:

GOOD STUFF! I just wanted to share a few of the great things that have gone on in the last week at The Drive. Many of our Seniors are beginning to get acceptances to colleges, scholarship offers, and making decisions for life after The Drive. This is an exciting time for them, and we celebrate their accomplishments! The annual Charity Dodgeball Tournament sponsored by the Athens Student Government was this past week and it was a huge success! Fourteen teams battled it out with the winning team being Theta Chi (The Athens Varsity Baseball Team). However, the true winner was the Backpack Buddies program here at Athens—over 150 pounds of food and \$610.00 were donated to Athens' Backpack Buddies program to help our students! Our Band marched last Saturday Night in the Apex Parade and “lit” up the crowd. Students and instruments were strung with lights and lit up the Parade, making an incredible impression on the crowd. As always, our Band represented us with style and integrity! Our Brain Game Team won in the First Round of the competition and are headed to the playoffs! Their match against Nash Central High School and Durham Jordan High School can be seen on WRAL on Saturday, January 4th, at 11:00 a.m. Our National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) clubs wrapped up their Winter Blitz fundraiser to support our friends at James Kenan High School. We will be totaling our schools giving and be getting all contributions to James Kenan High School next week. We had students in our Health Science Career Academy coordinate a Blood Drive tomorrow to save lives. They had to increase the number of appointments as we had already filled in all the original appointment times. Our Athens Drive Chorus made it to the finals of the WRAL Christmas Choir Competition and finished Third, earning them \$1,000.00 for their program! We hosted the Second Annual STEM Wars for our students and for all the First Grade students at Combs Elementary School. Our students and staff did an outstanding job highlighting STEM learning and activities, and I was proud of the manner with which they hosted our little friends. Athens Drive is also hosting the WRAL Wrestling Tournament that will involve over 40 schools, including Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Female Wrestling competitions both today and tomorrow. These are just a few highlights of the multitude of learning, service, and competitions that take place each day at Athens Drive! There is always something going on at The Drive and I am extremely proud to serve such an amazing school family!

SCHOOL SCHEDULE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS: Please remember that next Friday, December 20th is our final day of school for the 2019 calendar year. Please remember that Friday, December 20th is a Hurricane Make-Up Day for students and is now a school day. We will have school all next week (December 16th through December 20th), and then students have Winter Break and there is no school for students the week of December 23rd or the week of December 30th. The first day back to school for students after the Winter Holiday will be Monday, January 6th.

NEXT WEEK IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR CAP, GOWN, AND OTHER PRODUCTS: Jostens will return to campus for the last time on Wednesday, December 18th during both Lunches to take Cap, Gown, Class Ring, and other Senior product orders. Those students who are Graduating Mid-Year, on Thursday, January 30th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, will also receive their Cap and Gowns at this time, if they ordered one! Students who ordered Class Rings will have them delivered on Wednesday as well—please remember that your Class Ring must be paid in full in order to receive it. This is an exciting time! If you have any questions regarding Graduation, Senior activities, etc., please feel free to contact our Senior Class Advisor, Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net).

SENIOR BREAKFAST—OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT: The Senior Breakfast is a favorite tradition here at Athens to celebrate our Seniors' last Semester of high school. This event is entirely funded and run by Senior parents, so much help is needed! To donate now to help us prepare for this special event, please use this [link](#). Please click [here](#) to donate Gift Cards or other Raffle Prizes to support our Senior Breakfast. This is a great opportunity for your company to support our efforts as well! Please contact DeLana

Anderson (scottdelana@aol.com) or Kathy Carmer (klkcarmer@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

SENIOR SHIRTS AND HOODIES: Senior families, the official Athens Drive Senior Sportswear is now on sale through December 18th! There are three exciting designs: (1) Friends, (2) Space Jam Toon Squad, and (3) Old Row. You can order online through the school's website using the online payment system or you can complete the order forms that were distributed in Drive Time this week (extra copies are available in the Main Office). These are the official Athens Senior items with the names of the entire Senior Class on the back, so don't forget to order today!

MARCHING BAND REPRESENTING ATHENS DRIVE FOR THE LAST TIME THIS HOLIDAY SEASON: Our Band is marching for the last time this season tomorrow, Saturday, December 14th, in the Cary Christmas Parade. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Marching Band throughout this entire school year!

BAND GRAND HOLIDAY CONCERT ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH: Our Annual Grand Holiday Concert featuring all our Concert Bands will be held next Tuesday, December 17th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. This is a free event and holiday refreshments will be served after the Concert. Please come and enjoy the incredible talent of our students!

REMINDER ABOUT OUR BAND'S DEWEY'S HOLIDAY STORE: The Band's Dewey's Bakery is now open for the Holiday Season as a fundraiser! The store will offer cheese straws, cookies, sugar cakes, coffee, and many other delicious treats. This inaugural Dewey's Bakery Holiday Fundraiser Store is now open in the Waverly Place shopping center in Cary next to Whisk and will remain open through Tuesday, December 24th. Please refer to the Band's Dewey's Fundraiser [website](#) for details.

SCHEDULE CHANGE FORMS FOR SECOND SEMESTER CLASSES: Schedule Change Forms for the Spring Semester will be available for students in the Student Services office and online beginning January 13th. Please remember that schedule changes will only be considered for the following reasons:

1. The student is enrolled in a course the student has already completed and received credit.
2. The student is enrolled in a course for which the student has not met the prerequisite.
3. The student does not have a full schedule of 4 classes.
4. The student wants to move up/drop down a level in a core class (Must have signed Release form if dropping Honors/AP course).
5. The student needs a course for Promotion and/or Graduation.

If students meet one of the above criteria, then a Request for Schedule Change form must be completed and returned to Student Services by 2:30 p.m. on Friday, January 24th. Please know that the student request must meet one of the above criteria to be considered for a schedule change. No schedule changes are guaranteed, and there will be no schedule changes made for teacher preference or lunch preference. Also, there will be no schedule changes to elective courses unless a student is enrolled in a course the student has already passed or has not met the prerequisite for the course. Thank you for your understanding.

PLANNING AHEAD—DRIVER'S ELIGIBILITY: Please know that once Final Exams begin, Student Services will not be able to sign driver's eligibility forms until all grades are final for the First Semester. Please be sure to take care of this requirement prior to the start of Final Exams or you will have to wait until the beginning of February before we can resume signing DMV forms. Thank you!

WRAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT—DONATIONS CAN STILL BE MADE: A long-standing tradition at Athens, the prestigious WRAL Wrestling Tournament will again be hosted at Athens Drive beginning today, Friday, December 13th and ending tomorrow, Saturday, December 14th. Matches will begin at 5:00 p.m. tonight and will start again at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. We have over 40 teams competing in this Tournament. We can still use support to make this Tournament a success, so if you would like to sign up to work the event, please use this [link](#). To sign up to provide food for this event, please use this [link](#). If you would

be interested in contributing to help with the expenses for this event, please use this [link](#) to visit the GoFundMe page that has been established. This is a great event for our Wrestlers, Athens Drive, and our school community, so thank you for your support!

ATHLETICS: Please remember that we have athletic events almost every night and a variety of tournaments on weekends. Please check the Athens Drive athletic website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) for more information about game dates and times and thank you for your support of our student athletes.

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

REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKLY MESSAGES:

MAGNET RECRUITING SEASON: Our Magnet recruiting season has begun! We will continue to host tours in the coming weeks and months, and we look forward to showcasing the great things that are happening at Athens Drive. I appreciate your support as we work to share information about our school, Magnet Program, and school family with interested families. Please visit the [Magnet Information](#) portion of our Athens Drive website to find information regarding our Medical Sciences and Global Health Initiatives Magnet program.

TUTORING PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: I am pleased to announce that our National Honor Society (NHS) will be offering a new tutoring opportunity for any Athens Drive students. NHS will have tutors in the Media Center collaborative space every Monday during both “A” and “B” Lunches. NHS will match students and tutors based on their needs when they arrive at the tutoring session. Please let your students know about this resource and encourage them to participate if they need help. The first tutoring session will be this coming Monday, October 7th. All students are welcome!

STUDENT SERVICES WEBSITE: Please visit the [Student Services Website](#) to get information about upcoming events, scholarship opportunities, enrichment opportunities in the community, etc. You can also sign-up for the Student Services Remind message to get up-to-date information for each Class. Sign-up information is located outside of the Student Services office or on the Student Services website.

STUDENT SERVICES INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT: The Athens Drive Magnet High School Student Services Department has a new Instagram account. Follow us at [athensdrive_studentservices](#) to get Counselors’ updates, scholarship information, information on college presentations on campus, and much more. Please spread the word as we work to ensure our students are connected to the multitude of information to support them here at school and with their transition to post-secondary school or career plans!

COLLEGES VISITING ATHENS DRIVE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL: Please know that we continue to have representatives from universities meeting with our students during the school day. University representatives are normally located in the area outside of the Attendance Office during both lunch periods. This is a great opportunity for our students to learn about the various programs that are available, admission requirements, and financial aid. For more information on the colleges that are visiting, you can contact Student Services (919-233-4050 ext. 24893) or visit the Student Services website (<http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com>).

ANOTHER REMINDER ABOUT OUR FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE: For planning purposes, we have posted the First Semester Final Exam Schedule to this [link](#) on Athens Drive Magnet High School website. Please know that all students must take their Final Exams as scheduled, so please be sure that you plan any appointments, etc. outside of the Final Exam Schedule for your student. Another important reminder is that students do not need to be on campus if they do not have a Final Exam scheduled. Due to the number of staff required to administer the variety of Final Exams that we give, only students who have an assigned Final Exam need to be on campus. More information will be provided to students as our Final Exam period approaches to ensure each student is aware of his/her Final Exam schedule.

SENIOR CLASS PICTURE: Our Senior Class took their whole class group picture for the Yearbook this week. Students and families can purchase the large panoramic picture online for \$15.00 by visiting www.strawbridge.com and use the code: FM318608.

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!

JOIN THE PTSA REMINDER: Please remember that it is still not too late to join the PTSA! The PTSA is an amazing support to the teaching and learning at Athens Drive Magnet High School and I ask that you please join if you have not already. You can use this [link](#) to access member information. Thank you very much to those families that have already joined!

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.

ATHENS DRIVE SPIRIT WEAR: JAG Junction, the store located in the Gym Lobby where we sell Jaguar shirts and other items, will be open every Wednesday and Thursday, during both “A” and “B” lunches. If your student wants any Jaguar attire, this is a great opportunity for him/her to purchase it. Thank you!

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/>).