

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>).

It was great to have the building come back to life on Wednesday with the return of our students from the inclement weather we had! I hope our entire school family fared well during the storm. Please remember that due to the loss of two instructional days this week, we will now have snow Make-Up Days on Friday, January 18th and Tuesday, February 19th. Both of those days are now school days for students. Thank you for your attention to these changes to the school calendar.

Please remember that next Friday, December 21st is the final day of classes for this calendar year. Friday, December 21st is also an Early Release Day and students will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m. School will be closed beginning on Monday, December 24th through Wednesday, January 2nd. School will begin again after the Holidays on Thursday, January 3rd. Students need to be in class, on-time, and ready to learn by 7:25 a.m. on Thursday, January 3rd.

Please understand that until Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) finalizes dates for the end of the Second Quarter and First Semester, we will not be able to finalize our Final Exam Schedule. Please know that we are required to give our Final Exams during the final five days of the Semester. Thus, until the final day of the Semester is determined, we will not be able to finalize our Final Exam Schedule. As soon as we get that date, we will post our new First Semester Final Exam Schedule. Thank you for your understanding. Please know that when we do finalize the schedule, we will be working with our students to ensure that each student knows where and when each of their Final Exams are.

Athens Drive is hosting a Charity Dodgeball Tournament on Wednesday, December 19th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Gym. I want to thank our Student Council and all our students who are participating for making a difference and having some fun!

Our Band is holding their Grand Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 20th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

The Cast and Crew for our Spring Musical were announced this week. Congratulations to all the students that were accepted into the program! Please make sure to mark your calendars for March 6th through March 9th, as *All Shook Up!*, is a show you surely don't want to miss!

The Third Quarter SAT Prep Course is now currently enrolling for any Juniors planning to take the SAT Test in March. Space is limited, so please contact Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net) for additional information.

We are planning a 40th Anniversary Celebration at Athens Drive this Spring. As we celebrate 40 years of excellence at The Drive, we would like to offer all alumni, and families associated with Athens Drive, who are interested in being a part of our Celebration to please email Ms. Tonya Hinton (тчinton@wcpss.net). We would love for alumni, and/or families of alumni, to share photos, stories, and ideas for this upcoming special celebration! More details to come on this exciting event!

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.

The Official Athens Drive Senior Class Shirts are now on sale through next Friday, December 21st. Order forms can be found on the school's website by going to the Senior Information page (<https://www.wcpss.net/domain/7111>), or they can be picked up in the Main Office. All order forms and money are due to Mr. Remaley in Room 2618 by Friday, December 21st.

Our Magnet Coordinator, Ms. Tonya Hinton, is coordinating our Magnet Tours for families interested in finding out additional information about Athens Drive Magnet High School. If you are interested in helping out with a Tour (they are held from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.) on the following dates: Monday, December 17th; Monday, January 7th; and Wednesday, January 23rd, please sign-up to assist (<https://bit.ly/2zSoBPg>) or contact Ms. Hinton at thinton@wcpss.net. Thank you for your support of our efforts to attract families to The Drive!

Please know that we continue to have representatives from universities meeting with our students during the school day. University representatives are 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 Ms. Carrillo in Student Services (919-233-4050 ext. 24893) or visit the Student Services website (<http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com>).

I am very proud that students in our Health Science Career Academy are planning Athens Drive's first Winter Charity Gala. Our students will be holding a dance for Athens Drive students on Saturday, January 26th, and all proceeds from the dance and fundraising efforts will go directly to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital as a way for us to give back to kids battling cancer and unite our school. If you would like to donate to support this cause, please go to the website (<https://sites.google.com/wcpss.net/admhs-health-science-alliance/2019-athens-drive-winter-charity-gala>) that our students created for this event. I am excited that our students are creating this event to provide a fun evening for our students and to support a very worthy cause.

While we have many athletic events scheduled for next week, please also remember that even though we will be out of school over the Holidays, many of our teams will still be competing in tournaments. One of those tournaments is the WRAL Wrestling Tournament that we will host beginning next Friday, December 21st. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) for game dates and times. Thank you for supporting 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. I hope you all have a safe and dry as possible weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.