

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://athensdrivepts.com>).

NEW OR UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HOLIDAY MESSAGE: I would just like to take this opportunity to wish everybody much peace and love over our Holiday break. Those are things that I believe are most needed in our world right now—peace and love. I believe this is a wonderful time of the year to slow down, relax, cherish the time with our loved ones, and count our many blessings. Our children are truly the greatest blessings of all, and I thank you for sharing yours with us. It is our honor and pleasure to serve them and try to make a positive difference in their lives! I look forward to a New Year of renewed enthusiasm, re-commitment to our core values, and moving each student forward to reach his/her ultimate potential! I wish each of you a very peaceful and joyous Holiday season, and a New Year filled with much promise and hope! If you are traveling over the Holidays, please be safe.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE: Please remember that today was the last day of the classes for this calendar year. School will be closed for students beginning on Monday, December 23rd through Friday, January 3rd. School will begin again after the Holidays on Monday, January 6th. Students need to be in class, on-time, and ready to learn by 7:25 a.m. on Monday, January 6th.

ASSIGNMENT STRIP SENT HOME THIS WEEK: Each Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior should have brought home an Official School Assignment paper (Assignment Strip) this week. Assignment Strips were given to students in their Drive Time class on Thursday and it provides information to families regarding your School Assignment for Next Year (2020 – 2021 school year), anticipated Grade Level, and what kind of Transportation your student receives. If everything is good, you do not have to do anything. However, if you would like to request a different school assignment for your student, that information is included as well. Thank you for your attention to this information.

CHORUS CONCERT: On Thursday, January 9th we will have our Winter Chorus Concert in the Auditorium. The Concert will begin at 7:00 p.m., admission is free, and refreshments will be served afterwards. Join us for some fabulous singing by our talented students!

SENIOR BREAKFAST—OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT: During Drive Time on Thursday, our Seniors received information regarding their Senior Breakfast! 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!

ONE LAST REMINDER ABOUT OUR BAND'S DEWEY'S HOLIDAY STORE: The Band's Dewey's Bakery is still 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 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.

ATHLETICS: Thank you for your support of our Winter Sports! 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, again, 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. My next

message will be sent on Friday, January 10th, 2020. I hope you all enjoy a wonderful Winter Break! Go JAGS and please take care.

REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKLY MESSAGES:

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 complete 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!

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/>).