

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:

JAMES KENAN HIGH SCHOOL “WINTER BLITZ” DONATIONS: Our Athens Drive National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) clubs are sponsoring a “Winter Blitz” fundraiser benefiting our friends at James Kenan High School. You may remember that this is the school we partnered with after the Hurricanes last year to support those students and school families recover from the devastation they suffered. The families and students are still struggling to return to “normal” after last year's Hurricanes, and we'd like to send them some holiday cheer! We are asking students, staff, and school families to please bring any of the following donations (cash, checks made payable to James Kenan High School, gift cards to Wal-Mart or Food Lion, and non-perishable foods) now through Friday, December 13th. Please label all donations “James Keenan” and donations can be dropped off in the Main Office, Room 1710, or Room 1926. Please contact Ms. Worrell (kworrell@wcpss.net) or Ms. Benbow (ebenbow@wcpss.net) with any questions you may have. Thank you for your continued support of our friends and family members of James Kenan High School!

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT: The Athens Drive Student Government is once again sponsoring the 4th Annual Charity Dodgeball Tournament on Monday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Gym. Teams can be formed from all grade levels and abilities and can have 6 to 10 players. EACH player will need to complete the registration form which are available in the Main Office and around the building on the posters advertising the event. Each player (and any spectators who want to come watch) can choose to either donate \$5.00, donate 5 cans of food, or donate a new, unwrapped \$5.00 toy. All the donations will go to benefit the Backpack Buddies Program here at Athens Drive. If your student has any questions, please have them speak with Mr. Remaley (in Room 2618 or cremaley@wcpss.net) or Mr. Maxwell (in Room 2620 or smaxwell@wcpss.net).

BLOOD DRIVE: I am so proud that our students have taken the initiative to create a Blood Drive for our school family. We will be hosting the Athens Drive High School Community Blood Drive on Saturday, December 14th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at Crossroads Shopping Center in Cary. As an incentive to donate blood, all donors will receive a \$20.00 gift card to Chick-fil-A! Students and families can register by scanning the QR Code located on the posters hung up around campus. I appreciate our students’ efforts to make a positive (pun intended...) difference!

MARCHING BAND REPRESENTING ATHENS DRIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON: Our Band is continuing to represent us in outstanding ways this Holiday season! I am proud that our Marching Band will be performing in the Apex Christmas Parade tomorrow, Saturday, December 7th and the Cary Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 14th. I thank those students for their dedication and hard work in representing Athens Drive so well!

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.

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!

SENIOR BREAKFAST MEETING: We will be hosting a Senior Breakfast Meeting on Tuesday, December 10th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library. 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! Please come to this important meeting and learn how you can help make this a great Senior Breakfast for your Senior! Thank you for your support!

SENIOR CAP, GOWN, AND OTHER PRODUCTS—LAST OPPORTUNITY: 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! 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).

PLANNING AHEAD FOR OUR SCHOOL SCHEDULE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS: If you are planning ahead, please remember that 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. So, we will have school all next week (December 9th through December 13th) and school all the following week (December 16th through December 20th). 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.

WRAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT: A long-standing tradition at Athens, the prestigious WRAL Wrestling Tournament will again be hosted at Athens Drive on Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th. Matches will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday Night, and will start again at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. We are expecting over 40 teams to compete in this Tournament. We need a lot of 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 wonderful 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 BREAKFAST ASSISTANCE: The Senior Breakfast needs your help! Many volunteers are needed to help plan and organize this favorite Senior event! Be a part of this fun Athens Drive tradition by volunteering to help on a Committee linked [here](#). Please know that this event is funded 100% by donations, so please help by donating to the Senior Breakfast Fund [here](#). Thank you for your willingness to get involved and make our Class of 2020 Senior Breakfast a wonderful event for our Seniors!

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/>).