

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, emailed and texted to our school families, and e-mailed to the Athens Drive PTSA email group.

I hope you all received my message on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, regarding the Lockdown that we had at Athens Drive. I just wanted to follow-up and inform you that I was extremely proud of the leadership demonstrated by our staff and the response of our students throughout the Lockdown. It was very apparent that everyone took the Lockdown serious and remained focused. Please understand that I was able to make announcements throughout the Lockdown to keep our students and staff informed and calm. I am thankful to be working in a school family that not only is committed to student safety, but professionally responds to emergency situations. I also want to reiterate my thanks to the Raleigh Police and Wake County Public School System Security Department for their continued support of our students, staff, and school. Please know that I understand the immense responsibility we have in taking care of, and keeping your student safe each and every day. Please know that we are dedicated to upholding that responsibility and providing a safe school climate that is conducive for all of our students to have a great day of teaching and learning each day. Thank you for your support in allowing us the honor and pleasure to serve you and our students!

We have two opportunities to see our Band this weekend and this coming week. Tomorrow, Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m., our Marching Band will be marching in the Cary Christmas Parade. This is their last Marching Band performance before Marching at the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day! Then, on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m., we will be hosting our Holiday Band Concert in the Auditorium. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and admission is free. Guests will have the opportunity to hear the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble perform. Please come out and enjoy the amazing sounds and talents of our incredible students!

Does your student have questions about High School versus College (e.g., Experience, Dorm Life, Courses, etc.) and want answers from a College student's perspective? The Athens Drive Student Services Department will sponsor a panel discussion with Athens Drive Alumni to discuss their College Experience and answer questions that high school students may have about preparing for life after high school. Our students can join us for this panel discussion on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:30 a.m. during both lunches, in the Library. We look forward to welcoming back our Graduated JAGS and providing this information to our current JAGS.

Is your student interested in the judicial system? The Capital Area Teen Court may be a great opportunity for your student to hone in on their interest. Capital Area Teen Court is a sentencing/diversion option administered by ReEntry, Incorporated since 1998. It was established for first-time, misdemeanor offenders, ages nine to seventeen that admit guilt for their offense and are currently enrolled in the Wake county school system. Instead of the youth being charged and appearing in court, he or she is "diverted" to the Capital Area Teen Court. The court room is overseen by an adult Judge, but all of the lawyers, bailiffs, jurors, and defendants are youth. If you are interested in volunteering with Teen Court please attend an Informational Meeting on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. Please contact Ms. Brown, our Dean of Students, in Student Services if you have any questions.

Athens Drive is hosting a Charity Dodgeball Tournament on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Gym. We would love to have many student teams participate in this tournament. It is \$5.00, 5 cans of food, or a \$5.00 toy (new and unwrapped) as the registration fee per person! The profits from this event will benefit the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Marines Toys for Tots programs. The Registration deadline for teams is Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank our students for making a difference and having some fun!

If you are planning ahead, please remember that Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, is our final day of school for the 2017 calendar year. Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> is also an Early Release Day, and our school day will end at 11:35 a.m. School will be closed beginning on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and will start again after the Holidays on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please remember that the Final Exam Schedule for the Fall Semester has been posted on the website. Our Final Exams will begin with Teacher Made Exams starting on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and State-Mandated Final Exams beginning on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Final Exam Period will end on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Please read the schedule for details regarding your student's Final Exam schedule.

Our Winter Sports are in full swing. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website ([www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs](http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs)) for game dates and times. Thank you for supporting our incredible student athletes!

Those are all of the announcements for this week. Please continue to check the Athens Drive website ([www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs](http://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs)) for general information to help you stay informed. I hope you all have a wonderful, warm weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.