

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:**

**MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT:** Thank you to all our school families who came out to our Meet the Teacher event last night. I appreciate the support you provide our students and our school! It is great to work together to support student achievement.

**SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK:** Please remember that there is no school for students on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, or Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Monday is a Holiday and there is no school for students or staff, and Tuesday is a Workday, so no school for students. I look forward to seeing our students on Wednesday morning, February 19<sup>th</sup>, in First Period by 7:25 a.m. ready for a great day of teaching and learning!

**REPORT CARDS:** Parents, please remember that Report Cards were given to students on Tuesday to bring home. Please be sure to ask your student to show you his/her First Semester grades. I encourage our students who performed well to continue their outstanding academic achievement this Quarter and Semester. I also want to encourage our students who may not be happy with the start they have had to this school year, to remember that this is a clean, fresh, and new start in turning their academic achievement around!

**SOLAR PANELS COMING TO THE DRIVE!** The Athens Drive Magnet High School STEM Energy and Sustainability Academy is excited to announce the installation of a mounted solar panel array on the school's campus! A group of former STEM students, led by Rocco Nociti and including Alexandra Schneider, successfully wrote a matching grant through NC GreenPower to have the system installed. With the additional help of Camilla Araujo, they then proceeded to lead a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary funds to be matched. After a lengthy scheduling and City/School System permitting process, I'm happy to announce that installation time is upon us! By the end of this month, everyone should be able to see the solar panel as they walk up the library entrance to our school. We look forward to utilizing data from these panels to support teaching and learning in our classrooms!

**BAND CHAMBER CONCERT:** On Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, our Band will be performing a Chamber Concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. in our Cafeteria. This concert will feature the small instrumental sub-groups that comprise our large bands. Come and hear saxophone ensembles, clarinet choirs, brass ensembles, and other amazing groups. The concert is free, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

**HEALTH SCIENCE CAREER ACADEMY FUNDRAISER ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>:** Our Health Science Career Academy will be hosting a fundraiser on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Mod Pizza at Waverly Place. Portions of the proceeds sold will go to our Health Science Career Academy. Thank you for your support of our students!

**BLOOD DRIVE:** We will be hosting another Blood Drive on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 638 Walnut Street in Cary at Crossroads Shopping Center. We are using our competitive spirit with Cary High School to try to bring in more donors! Athens and Cary High Schools will compete to see who can get the most donors. Each Athens Drive donor will receive a \$20.00 gift card as well as coffee and other refreshments that will be available. We will have 3 buses at this Blood Drive to accommodate the flow of donors. Please make plans to help serve in this way and to beat Cary!

**CURRICULUM NIGHT AND RISING FRESHMEN ORIENTATION:** On Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, please mark your calendar to attend our Curriculum Night and Rising Freshmen Orientation. Curriculum information will be provided for each Class to assist families in preparing for Course Registration for the 2020 – 2021 School Year. We will have Counselors and Staff members available from all our Departments to assist with sharing curriculum information in addition to information regarding Clubs, Arts, and Athletics. The evening

will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to sharing information and welcoming our newest JAGS to The Drive!

**SWIM TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Our Swim team completed in the State meet this past weekend with our Men's team finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the State! On the Women's team, we had our first Women's swimmer to score points in the State meet in five years! I am very proud of the hard work put in by our Swim team and for the incredible manner they represented our Conference and school!

**ATHLETICS:** We have a lot to be proud of with regards to our Winter student athletes! In addition to the outstanding efforts of our Swimmers that I mentioned above, we have Wrestlers competing in the Regional championships this weekend and we wish them well! Also, we have several runners on our Indoor Track team competing in the State Championships this weekend. Our Men's and Women's Basketball teams have Senior Night tonight as we play against Cary High School, so come out and support them in a critical Conference match-up for both teams. Next week our Men's and Women's Basketball teams will be playing in the Tri-8 Conference Basketball Championship with First Round games held Monday night. Please continue to check the Athens Drive Athletics website ([www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs](http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs)) for all our game dates and times. Thank you for supporting our incredible student athletes! I continue to be proud of the way our student athletes, students, coaches, and families all represent Athens Drive so well!

**THANK YOU!** Those are all the announcements for this week. Please continue to check the Athens Drive website ([www.wcps.net/athensdrivehs](http://www.wcps.net/athensdrivehs)) for general information and to help you stay informed. I hope you all have a safe, enjoyable long weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.

#### **REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKLY MESSAGES:**

**COURSE REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR IS BEGINNING:** Students received course information in Drive Time today. All registration information, course listing, timelines, High School Planning Guide, and course descriptions are located on this [link](#) on the Athens Drive website. We encourage parents and students to review the material on guide to ensure that students are registering for courses that meet the graduation requirements. Students must claim their NC EDCloud Student Account in order to register for courses. Please visit this [link](#) on the Athens Drive website or visit the Student Services office to obtain instructions on how students can claim their account. Counselors will meet with all students to assist with the registration process. Registration appointments will be scheduled for all students and students are encouraged to attend their registration meeting. A schedule of appointments will be available outside of the Student Services office. Here is the Registration Timeline:

- **February 10<sup>th</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Registration portal opens for Ninth and Eleventh Grade students. Counselors will meet individually with 11<sup>th</sup> Grade students for registration and academic planning. A schedule of appointments will be posted outside of the Student Services office. Registration portal will close for 11th graders on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **February 13<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>:** Counselors will meet individually with Ninth Grade students for registration and academic planning. A schedule of appointments will be posted outside of the Student Services office. Registration portal will close for Ninth Grade students on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **March 10<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>:** Registration Portal opens for Tenth Grade students. Counselors will meet individually with Tenth Grade students for registration and academic planning. A schedule will be posted outside of the Student Services office of appointments. Registration portal will close for Tenth Grade students on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Students should complete the High School Registration Work Plan and bring it to their meeting with the Counselors. Helpful Hints for registration:

1. Students should register for the 8 primary courses and 3 alternate courses that they wish to take and make sure that there are 3 alternates. ALTERNATE COURSES SHOULD BE COURSES STUDENTS

ARE WILLING TO TAKE. STUDENT SERVICES WILL NOT CHANGE A COURSE IF THE STUDENT HAS REGISTERED FOR IT AS A PRIMARY OR AN ALTERNATE SELECTION.

2. Students should consult with their teacher if they feel that the recommendation for a class is not correct or if they need a recommendation for a class. Students and teachers should dialogue about appropriate courses.
3. Students in the STEM Academy should register for the STEM section for English I-V, Math (II & III only), Social Studies, & Science (Biology & Chemistry Only). These courses will be denoted with a W at the end of the course code. This information will be shared in the STEM meetings that will be scheduled.
4. Students in the HSCA Academy (beginning with the Class of 2022) will be cohorted in their English and Social Study courses. These students should register for 10225X0C-English II (H) and 43045X0C-American History (H).

Please know that we build our Master Schedule based on what courses our students register for. We cannot change schedules later when a student changes his/her mind about the courses he/she has registered for. Thank you for helping us ensure that students select the courses they need and the courses they want during this registration period.

**MID-YEAR CLASS RANK AND SCHOOL REPORTS:** Mid-Year Class Rank will be run on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Seniors that have applied to a College/University that requires a Mid-Year School Report to be submitted must complete a Request form. The request form is available at the Front Desk of the Student Services Office. Counselors will only send Mid-Year School Reports for students that complete the Request form.

**ACT PREPARATION:** Please know that all Juniors will be taking the ACT on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The State of North Carolina pays for the administration of the ACT to all Juniors. Please find below links to overviews of each Test to begin to prepare your Junior for this test administration:

- [ACT English Test](#)
- [ACT Mathematics Test](#)
- [ACT Reading Test](#)
- [ACT Science Test](#)
- [ACT Writing Test](#)

**STATE EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE SCHOLARSHIP:** Parents of Seniors, the State Employee's Credit Union's \$10,000.00 People Helping People Scholarship application is now available! To be eligible for the Scholarship the student or their parent should be a member, or eligible to be a member, of the State Employee's Credit Union. The student also needs to be attending one of the 16 UNC system Universities, have an unweighted Grade Point Average of a 2.5 or higher, and demonstrate leadership, excellence of character, integrity, and community involvement. The student also must file a Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of the application. Students will need to submit the completed application, and as part of the application, students should submit one recommendation letter from someone (no family members, please) who can speak to their community involvement. The recommendation is due at the same time as the application. The deadline to submit the application is Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, by 3:00 p.m. in the Student Services Office. Please know that all [applications](#) (available on the Athens Drive Magnet High School Student Services website under the Scholarship tab) must be typed and printed for submission. This is a great scholarship that at least one of our Seniors will be awarded, so please be sure your student is considering this opportunity!

**PTSA SCHOLARSHIPS:** Parents of Seniors, if your Senior is interested in applying for one of the PTSA's \$500.00 PTSA Scholarships they provide to Graduating Seniors, your Senior must be a member of the PTSA by the end of February. Seniors (and any families that have not joined yet!) can sign-up to be a PTSA member at this [link](#). Please remember that the PTSA will be at the Senior Parent Meeting to help Seniors join the PTSA and be eligible for these Scholarships.

**ATHENS' GOT TALENT!** We are beginning a new tradition at The Drive--*Athens' Got Talent* which will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Student Government is putting on a Talent Show open to ANY student, any grade level, and even staff members! Cost of admission is \$5.00, and all proceeds will go to charity! If your student has a talent (e.g., singing, dancing, comedy, anything!) encourage them to sign-up for an audition time by going to this [link](#) and signing up today! Audition dates are February 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the perfect platform to show just how much "Athens' Got Talent!" Please contact Mr. Remaley ([cremaley@wcpss.net](mailto:cremaley@wcpss.net)) if you have questions.

**THE 1 MILLION PROJECT:** Athens Drive Magnet High School has been selected as one of the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) schools who are participating in [The 1 Million Project](#). The mission of the 1 Million Project is to help 1 million high school students who do not have reliable Internet access at home reach their full potential by giving them mobile hotspots and free high-speed Internet access. In short, this project gives free wireless hotspots to students in need with the ultimate goal of bridging the homework gap. For students to participate in this program:

- students must be enrolled at Athens Drive Magnet High School;
- have a device that will connect to the internet;
- have limited or unreliable access to internet connections; and
- turn in a signed Consent form.

If you are interested in learning more or signing up to receive a free wireless hotspot, please contact Ms. Burnette ([pburnette@wcpss.net](mailto:pburnette@wcpss.net)) or Ms. Ruthven ([kruthven@wcpss.net](mailto:kruthven@wcpss.net)). Thank you for your support of this project!

**CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY SPECIAL VISIT TO CAMPUS:** An Admission Counselor from Campbell University will be meeting with students that are interested in learning more about Campbell University. The Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. until 11:10 a.m. Students that are interested in meeting with the Campbell University Admission Counselor must register in the Student Services Office by February 24<sup>th</sup>. Once a student signs-up they will receive a pass to attend the meeting.

**FLU SEASON REMINDERS:** The peak of the cold and flu season is upon us. We have several cases of the flu in our building among students and staff. To prevent widespread illness in the school, please be sure to follow these guidelines. The best thing you can do is to keep your student home when sick, as this will help stop the spread of illness to other student and teachers. Please keep them home when they show any of these symptoms: fever of 100 degrees F or higher; nausea or vomiting; severe headache; diarrhea; red, watery eyes with yellow drainage; and undiagnosed rash. Students should stay home until they have been naturally without fever for at least 24 hours. If you are called to pick up a sick child at school, plan to arrive swiftly. If you know your child has been exposed to someone diagnosed with the flu virus, call your doctor immediately to find out what to do. Thank you for your support in keeping our students and staff healthy!

**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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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>).

**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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:dianeshuggins@yahoo.com)).

**ATHLETICS—JAG CLUB:** Are you interested in helping with the JAG Club this year? Please email Lori Airee ([my6blessings@yahoo.com](mailto: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/>).