

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.

What an unbelievably heart-wrenching event that transpired at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Wednesday. While our thoughts and prayers are with those families and the entire school community, please know that we also care about the safety and health of our students. I have had the opportunity to speak with students, our teachers have had conversations with students, and our Counselors have dealt with students and are available for students who may need to talk more. To help us heal, we are working on ways to engage our students and staff to continue to build positive relationships as a way to maintain the safety and health of our school. In addition, I am going to be distributing information to students beginning next week regarding a new Principal's Student Leadership Team that I am starting to better facilitate conversations with our students to meet their needs. I want to be sure that we are serving our students in tangible ways to support their growth and success and to ensure that our students' voices are being heard. Application materials will be distributed next week and I look forward to serving, listening, and engaging with our students to build a better school and world.

I have placed a letter (<http://bit.ly/2obLSpB>) on our school website from me, and Wake County Public School System, regarding the tragic event in Parkland, Florida. Please know that we are here if you feel your student needs any support. Please feel free to reach out to our Students Services at 919-233-4050, then Press 1, to speak with any of our Counselors.

Please remember that Monday, February 19th is a Regular School Day. Originally scheduled as a Teacher Workday, Monday, February 19th is now a snow Make-Up Day and we do have school for students. The school day begins and ends at the normal times.

Next week is a big week at Athens Drive. On Wednesday, February 21st and Thursday, February 22nd, a Review Team from AdvancED will be at our school conducting our Accreditation Review. Accreditation happens every five years and is an important process for our school to undertake. We have been preparing for their visit and have asked students, families, and community partners to assist us during their visit. Thank you for your support of our school as we continue to look at what we can do to continuously improve!

Course registration materials for the 2018 – 2019 school year will be given to students during Drive Time on Tuesday, February 20th. It is imperative that our students and parents are reviewing and making correct choices for courses for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Please remember that we build our Master Schedule based on student registration. Thus, I ask that our parents please review the registration material with your student(s) to ensure that your student(s) is registering for correct courses. Beginning Thursday, February 22nd, Counselors will meet individually with the current Junior Class to assist with registration and preparing them for their Senior year. A schedule of meetings will be available outside of the Student Services office beginning February 20th. Please encourage your student(s) to attend their scheduled meeting. Counselors will meet with current 9th and 10th grade students in small groups starting the week of March 9th to assist them with registration.

To assist families in planning for course selection for the 2018 – 2019 school year, please remember that on Thursday, March 1st we will be holding our rising Tenth through Twelfth Grade Curriculum Night and our Freshmen Open House. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. in grade-level specific meetings. Then, parents and students will have the opportunity to visit all curricular areas to get detailed information about courses and course sequences.

Please remember that we are hosting our Spring Sports Parent Night on Wednesday, February 21st, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Gym. All parents of our Spring student-athletes are expected to attend this meeting.

I am excited for our Winter Chamber Concert that will be held this Thursday, February 22nd, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. This Concert will feature our Band, Choir, and Orchestra in mainly small ensemble settings. What a great variety of talent, wonderful artistry, and a wonderful opportunity to see and hear the talent of our students.

The annual Volley Bros Tournament is this Friday, February 23rd, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Gym. Our male students have built their teams and they will be coached by our very own Women's Volleyball Team. Anyone interested in coming out to watch the double-elimination volleyball tournament can pay \$5.00 at the door for admission.

We will be administering the ACT on Tuesday, February 27th. The ACT will be given to all Juniors and it is imperative that we begin this test administration at 7:25 a.m. All of our Juniors will need to bring a photo identification, number 2 pencils, and a calculator. Students may also choose to bring a snack to eat during the break. Please understand that no electronic devices will be allowed in the testing room. Please also know that students can choose up to four colleges to send their ACT score to for free.

The window for registering for Advanced Placement (AP) exams is now open and will remain open through March 5th. All students who are taking an AP Exam must register online via Total Registration. The Total Registration portal is available on the Athens Drive Magnet High School website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs). Please contact Ms. Brown, our Dean of Students, in Student Services if you have further questions.

Parents of Seniors, it is that time of the year when many scholarship opportunities are available for students. I encourage you to take advantage of these resources. You can find some scholarship information on our Student Services website—go to the Athens Drive website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs), click on Students, click on Student Services, and then click on Scholarships. In addition to those scholarships, I did want to let our Seniors know that the application for this year's State Employee's Credit Union's (SECU) \$10,000 Scholarship is now available in Student Services. The SECU People Helping People Scholarship is only available to graduating public high school Seniors who are either members of SECU or the child of a parent/guardian who is a member of SECU. They should also be attending one of the 16 UNC system universities, have a GPA of a 2.5 or higher unweighted, and lastly demonstrate leadership, excellence of character, integrity and community involvement. The student also must file a Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) form as part of the application. Students will need to submit an SECU Application and Community Involvement Essay, two letters of recommendation, and community involvement essay. The deadline to submit to be considered for an interview is February 19th by 3:00 p.m.

We have a lot to be proud of with regards to our Winter sports. We have Wrestlers participating at States today, our Track and Swimming Teams have represented us well at the State championships, and we begin State playoffs in basketball next week! We also have had hundreds of students attend tryouts this week for our Spring sports. I am excited about the opportunities for our students to connect to others and our school through athletics. The Spring sports game schedule is posted on the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) and is the best place to find out the most up-to-date game dates and times for all athletic events. In addition, please be sure to follow @athensjags on Twitter for up-to-date information on Jaguar athletics.

Those are all of 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. Please take care of yourself and each other. I hope you all have a safe, wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.