

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>).

Current Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Grade students all received the 2019 – 2020 Course Registration Guide in Drive Time today. We encourage parents to review the Course Registration Guide with their student and discuss what courses their student would like to take during the 2019 – 2020 school year. Detailed course descriptions and the High School planning guide are available on our website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs). Counselors will be meeting with every student to assist with the registration process. Schedules for Registration meeting will be posted outside of the Student Services office and will be shared with all staff. Please encourage your student to attend their Registration Session to ensure that they register for the correct courses for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Counselors will be conducting Junior Conferences starting Monday, February 25th. A copy of the schedule for Junior conferences is located outside of the Student Services office. Counselors will be conducting Sophomore Conferences starting March 18th. Finally, Counselors will be conducting Freshman Conferences starting March 25th. Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students register for the courses that they need to help them reach their post-Secondary goals.

The Advanced Placement (AP) Exam registration portal will be closing on Tuesday, February 26th at 9:00 p.m. All students interested in taking an AP Exam MUST complete the online registration via www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/343196 by 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26th. The link is available on the Athens Drive website (<https://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs>). Students will NOT be able to register for AP Exams after this day and time. All students interested in taking an AP exam must complete registration online. Student answer sheets will be formulated from the information that is provided on the on-line system, therefore it is imperative that students complete the on-line registration accurately and completely. Students need to be sure that they utilize their Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) email to register for their AP Exam(s). AP Exams will be administered May 6th through 17th. Please contact Ms. Brown (tbrown3@wcpss.net or 919-233-4050 Ext. 24898) or Ms. Boothe (kboothe@wcpss.net or 919-233-4050 Ext. 24894) in the Student Services office if you have further questions.

Tuesday, February 26th, beginning at 6:30 p.m., we will be having a PTSA meeting in the Library. All students and families are invited to join this meeting!

Also, on Tuesday night, February 26th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Edenton Street United Methodist Church, the Athens Drive Vocal Ensemble will be performing. The concert is free and includes performances from six local high school Chorus' and the Chorus from Methodist University.

Thursday night, February 28th, will be a busy night at The Drive! We will be hosting a Men's Basketball Second Round Playoff game and our Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble will be performing a concert. The Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble performance will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium and the admission is free. Our Men's Basketball game will most likely start at 7:00 p.m., admission is \$6.00, and no passes will be accepted since this is a State Playoff Game. We will know details about the game after the First Round Playoff games are held on Tuesday Night. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) to find out the details after Tuesday night's results are final.

It is hard to believe that we are approximately halfway through the Third Quarter. Please expect Third Quarter Interim Reports to come home with students next week. Congratulations to the students who made the All As and A/B Honor Roll for the Second Quarter this school year! I am signing Honor letters, and they will be sent home next week. I want to encourage all our students to focus on their academic achievement and earn these honors in the Third Quarter.

Don't forget that our annual Volley Bros Tournament is tonight, Friday, February 22nd, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Gym and admission is free. Thank you for supporting our students!

Please mark your calendars for our incredible school Musical! The Athens Drive Theatre Department's Spring Musical, *All Shook Up!*, will run from Wednesday, March 6th through Saturday, March 9th, beginning each night at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. This sweet Musical is based on William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and features the music of the King of Rock, Elvis Presley! Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the door. As a bonus, on Wednesday, March 6th, we will feature a student rush night where students can attend for \$5.00 with a valid student ID. Please come support the over 60 students that have been working tirelessly to produce a magical show. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Hayes at ahayes3@wcpss.net.

Speaking of the Arts, our Winter Guard will be performing at Apex Friendship High School tomorrow, Saturday, February 23rd, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Also, seven of our students have earned the privilege of auditioning for the North Carolina All-State Band next Saturday, March 2nd at Central Davidson High School. We are proud of them for being recognized for this incredible accomplishment!

We are planning a 40th Anniversary Celebration at Athens Drive to be held on Thursday, March 14th. Our plan is to begin the festivities from 3:30 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. with faculty and student alumni meeting and greeting and we will have tours of the school available. From 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., we will be hosting a 40th Anniversary Panel in the Auditorium. We will have many former Principals and school leaders on the panel to share stories and history. In addition, we also have several athletic events happening that night for alumni and families to attend, and at 7:00 p.m. we will have a Band Concert in the Auditorium as well. Please email Ms. Tonya Hinton (tchinton@wcpss.net) if you are interested in assisting with this event or would like additional information. We would love for alumni, and/or families of alumni, to share photos, stories, and ideas for this upcoming special celebration! We look forward to a great night celebrating 40 years of excellence at The Drive!

Looking ahead, we ask you to save the date for our Spring Beautification Day that will be held on Saturday, April 13th, 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. We will mulch, weed, and clean up our gardens in front of the school as well as some other garden maintenance and clean-up efforts. This is a great opportunity for students to earn Volunteer Service Hours and support our school! If you would like to help and/or lead an area of clean up, please contact John Sykes at jsykes02@bellsouth.net. Thank you for all you give to the Athens Drive family!

I was sorry that I could not attend our Spring Sports Parent Night on Wednesday Night, but I do appreciate all our parents who attended and support our student athletes. I continue to be excited about the direction of our Athletic Department and excited to start our Spring sports. I am also fired up about continuing our *We Are Athens Drive* sportsmanship campaign that we launched last year and starting our new Jaguars Leadership Academy! Thank you for your support of excellent sportsmanship on the field of play, in the stands, on social media, and in talking to others both inside and outside of our school family. I appreciate all of us representing The Drive in only the highest of standards!

We will be finding out this weekend who our Women's Basketball team will be playing in the First Round of the State Playoffs on Tuesday Night, February 26th. It will be an away game and we are proud of their accomplishments this season! Despite the rain, our Spring Sports teams have begun to prepare for their seasons as well. Unfortunately, this week was a wash-out, so we hope that next week will allow us to practice outside and begin our competitions! To stay on top of all of the games dates and times, please be sure to continue to check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) to find out the most up-to-date information. Thank you for all your support of our student athletes!

Those are all 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. I hope you all have a safe, warm, and dry weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.