

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.

Thank you to all of the students and parents who I have spoken with in person or who have called and/or emailed with questions, concerns, and ideas with regards to maintaining a safe, healthy school. Please know that if I haven't responded to your individual email or call, I will. Please also know that we are paying even closer attention to ways that we can improve our safety efforts and strengthen our support of our students. I do believe that the best way to keep our school safe is to nurture healthy and positive relationships with our students at all times. Please continue to emphasize to your students that they should feel comfortable talking about situations that cause them concern and remind them that we have Counselors, Administrators, and Teachers on campus to support them. Please remember that students and parents can also report any safety concerns to our anonymous tip line at 919-856-1911. Thank you for your continued support of our school, staff, and students.

I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to the PTSA and all of our parents, students, staff, and school partners that supported our Accreditation Review this week! Thank you all for your efforts to provide feedback and assist us as we engaged in our External Review for Accreditation. We had an Exit Conference with our Review Team yesterday that was positive about the overall teaching and learning at Athens Drive and also provided us some information on areas where we can continue to improve. Overall, I expect a great Final Report and I continue to be honored to serve such an outstanding school family!

Our students received registration materials for the 2018 – 2019 school year in Drive Time on Tuesday. We encourage you to review the Course Registration material to ensure that your student(s) is registering for courses that meet Graduation requirements and support him/her in reaching his/her post-Secondary goals. Detailed course descriptions and the High School planning guide are available on our website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs). Students must claim their NCEDCloud Student Account in order to register for courses. Please visit the website or visit the Student Services office to obtain instructions on how to claim your account. Please know that Counselors will meet with students to assist with the registration process. Juniors will meet with Counselors individually and a schedule of appointments is available outside of the Student Services office. Current 9th and 10th Grade students will be meeting with their Counselors in small groups starting March 9th. Students should complete the High School Registration Work Plan and the Graduation Plan worksheet and bring it to their meeting with the Counselors. The registration portal for current 11th Grade students will be open from February 22nd through March 16th. The registration portal for current 9th and 10th Grade students will be open from March 9th through March 30th.

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. Information regarding this event and all of our 2018 – 2019 Course Registration information can be found on our website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs).

The online application period for our STEM Academy and Health Science Academy is now open. The application period lasts until Wednesday, March 7th. The link to the application can be found on the Athens Drive Magnet High School website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs).

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! Honor letters are being sent home and our Honor Roll students are being recognized by having their names listed on our Honor Roll posters hung in the school. I want to encourage all of our students to focus on their academic achievement and earn these honors in the Third Quarter.

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. In December 2011, the State Board of Education

approved the ACT to become a part of North Carolina's accountability model for High Schools. This is a great opportunity for our Juniors and my expectation is that every Junior will be here at school on Tuesday and do his/her best on the ACT. It is imperative that we have all Juniors come to school on Tuesday so that we meet our State testing policy requirements. 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. To allow enough time for our students to take the ACT, we will be operating on a different Bell Schedule for Tuesday—we will have three periods of instruction, then lunch. Our Juniors will be in their ACT Testing Session all morning until lunch and all other students will be attending their classes as normal.

On Wednesday, February 28th, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:50 p.m., we will be hosting our Career Conversation event to close-out the celebration of Career and Technical Education Month and to kick off registration for the 2018 – 2019 school year to highlight the many Career Clusters course offerings Athens Drive has to offer. During the Career Conversation event students will have the opportunity sit down and discuss and learn from business professionals what skills are needed to have a successful career. Students will discuss their skills, strengths, career goals, etc. and our Business Professionals will have the opportunity to provide feedback to the students on relevant experience as it pertains to their career.

Please remember that Friday, March 2nd is an Early Release Day. Students will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m.

The application for the Principal's Student Leadership Team can be found in the Main Office and on our website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs). The deadline for submitting applications is next Friday, March 2nd. I look forward to serving with these students to find ways to improve our school.

Don't forget that our annual Volley Bros Tournament is tonight, Friday, February 23rd, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Gym. Anyone interested in coming out to watch the double-elimination volleyball tournament can pay \$5.00 at the door for admission. Thank you for supporting our students!

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.

I was sorry that I could not attend our Spring Sports Parent Night on Wednesday Night, but I do appreciate all of our parents who attended and support our student athletes. I am excited about the direction of our Athletic Department and excited to start our Spring sports next week. I am also fired up about our *We Are Athens Drive* sportsmanship campaign that we have launched. 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. Thank you for representing The Drive in only the highest of standards! Please remember that game dates and times are always posted on the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs). 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. I hope you all have a safe, wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.