

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>).

We have a lot to celebrate at The Drive, and this past week has been no exception to that! There are so many fantastic things going on each day that I often do not mention the good stuff happening in my weekly messages throughout the year. However, I do want to highlight just a few items that we can celebrate to give you all a glimpse of our great days of teaching and learning. First, we received notification that we were selected as a **Magnet School of Excellence** by Magnet Schools of America! Magnet School of Excellence Awards are the highest recognition and given only to a select group of Magnet Schools around the Country. This award recognizes schools that demonstrate the ability to raise student academic achievement, promote racial and socioeconomic diversity, provide integrated curricula and instruction, and create strong family and community partnerships that enhance their Magnet theme. We also held our Mid-Year Graduation last night and we had a packed Auditorium to celebrate Athens Drive's largest Mid-Year Graduating Class and honor those students with the Diplomas they earned! The day had started off with a tremendous Senior Breakfast that our Senior Parents and PTSA hosted for our Seniors! Yesterday was just another fantastic day to be a JAG! I also want to give a shout-out to our Brain Game team who will be participating in the Playoffs on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 a.m. at WRAL Studios against Cardinal Gibbons and Panther Creek! I am proud of the success of our team and for the outstanding way they represent Athens Drive! We had two students participate in the Poetry Out Loud District Competition last weekend and represent Athens in an excellent manner. We had 13 (an incredible number!) of our Band members win positions in the Central District Honor Band which includes a huge area of our State from Greensboro through the entire Raleigh-Durham area! Many of those students auditioned for the State Honor Band this past week. In addition, our students have done an incredible job of creating and planning our first Winter Charity Gala being held this weekend and have raised over \$6,000.00 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital! I look forward to celebrating with our students at the dance tomorrow night. We have also had a great start to the Second Semester this week and I am glad to see our students focused on finishing this year strong! I am proud to serve in a school and with a school family that is committed to our core values and in providing the best educational opportunities for our students! Thank you for your support of our efforts and for allowing us to serve your (our!) students!

Please remember that First Semester Report Cards will go home with students next Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

I reminded students, but I would like our school families to remember as well, that we will begin Tardy Sweeps again on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. We have given students the first four days of our new Semester to find their classrooms and find the best routes to take to get to each class. Thank you for your support of our efforts to ensure that students are in class, on-time, and ready to learn at the beginning of each class period.

I reminded our students at the end of the day today that we will be utilizing Breath-A-Lyzers at the entry of our Winter Charity Gala tomorrow night. I don't want it to be a surprise to our students, as this is our regular practice for dances hosted by Athens Drive. I want to ensure that we have a safe, fun dance that is free from alcohol and drugs. Thank you for your support in helping us ensure that our students make positive choices and enjoy school events before, during, and after the activities!

Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Registration meetings are scheduled for Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, during both "A" and "B" lunch in the Auditorium. All students that are enrolled in an AP class during the 2018 – 2019 school year and are interested in taking the AP Exam in May should attend this meeting. Students will get information about registering for the AP Exams, learn about AP Exam procedures, and find out about AP Exam administration locations.

Once we complete the AP Exam Registration meetings, AP Exam Registration will begin on January 29<sup>th</sup> and end on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The on-line registration system will close February 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. and students will NOT be able to register for AP Exams after that date. All students interested in taking an AP exam must complete registration online registration via [www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/343196](http://www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/343196). The link will be available on the Athens Drive website (<https://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs>) beginning Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 6<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. Students will receive an AP Bulletin with additional information about AP testing at the AP Registration Exam meetings on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Ms. Brown ([tbrown3@wcpss.net](mailto:tbrown3@wcpss.net) or 919-233-4050 Ext. 24898) or Ms. Boothe ([kboothe@wcpss.net](mailto:kboothe@wcpss.net) or 919-233-4050 Ext. 24894) in the Student Services office if you have further questions.

Our Athens Drive Student Government is sponsoring "Coming Home" Spirit Week next week from Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, with a week ending Pep Rally on Friday in preparation for the big Cary Quad Basketball games at home next Friday night! The Spirit Days are America Monday, Tourist Tuesday, Meme Wednesday, Jersey Thursday, and of course, Friday is Orange and Blue Day! I look forward to a fun week for our students!

The PTSA will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Athens Drive Library. All families are invited to attend this meeting.

Parents of Seniors, if your Senior is interested in applying for one of the three \$500.00 PTSA Scholarships they provide to Graduating Seniors, your Senior must be a member of the PTSA by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Seniors (and any families that have not joined yet!) can sign-up to be a PTSA member at <https://bit.ly/2MBzHOI>.

We are holding our Second Semester Meet the Teacher Night next week on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

5:30	-	5:50	Senior Parent Meeting (Auditorium)
6:00	-	6:06	Drive Time (Pick Up Student Schedule, if needed)
6:12	-	6:27	First Period
6:33	-	6:48	Second Period
6:54	-	7:09	Third Period
7:15	-	7:30	Fourth Period

The Third Quarter SAT-Prep Course is still enrolling students to prepare for the March SAT Test. The Tuesday after school class is nearly full, however the Monday evening class still has room. Please contact Mr. Remaley ([cremaley@wcpss.net](mailto:cremaley@wcpss.net)) as soon as possible for more information on how to register.

In looking ahead, please know that we will be administering the ACT Test to all Juniors on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The State of North Carolina pays for the administration of the ACT to all Juniors. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the Test date.

Also, on Wednesday, February 20<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. 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.

Please remember that Student Services will not be able to sign Driver's Eligibility forms until all grades and report cards are finalized. Thus, Driver's Eligibility forms will not be signed from now through Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure that all grades are stored/finalized for us to verify that students meet the educational requirements for DMV. Student Services will resume signing Driver's Eligibility forms again on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

We are planning a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Athens Drive this Spring. As we celebrate 40 years of excellence at The Drive, we would like to offer all alumni, and families associated with Athens Drive, who are interested in being a part of our Celebration to please email Ms. Tonya Hinton ([tchinton@wcpss.net](mailto:tchinton@wcpss.net)). We would love for alumni, and/or families of alumni, to share photos, stories, and ideas for this upcoming special celebration! More details to come on this exciting event!

Please know that we continue to have representatives from universities meeting with our students during the school day. University representatives are 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 Ms. Carrillo in Student Services (919-233-4050 ext. 24893) or visit the Student Services website (<http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com>).

We are entering the final weeks of our Winter Athletic season and some teams are already competing at our Conference Tournaments and in the State Playoffs. Our Basketball teams have games tonight and I wish our Cheerleading, Track, and Swim teams well as they all are participating in competition tomorrow. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website ([www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs](http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs)) for the game dates and times for all our athletic events. Thank you for supporting our incredible student athletes!

Those are all 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 safe, enjoyable weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.