

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:

GREAT WEEK AT THE DRIVE! 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. We 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! In addition, our students have done an incredible job of planning our Second Annual Winter Charity Gala being held this weekend to benefit WakeMed Children's Hospital! I look forward to celebrating with our students at the dance tomorrow night and helping a very worthy cause. We have also had a great start to the Second Semester this week and I am proud to see our students focused on finishing this year strong!

TARDY SWEEPS BEGIN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD: I reminded students, but I would like our school families to remember as well, that we will begin Tardy Sweeps again on Monday, February 3rd. We have given students the first three 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.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT FOR SECOND SEMESTER: We are holding our Second Semester Meet the Teacher Night next Thursday, February 6th. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a Senior Parent information session (for families of Seniors only) and then the Meet the Teacher Night begins at 6:00 p.m. This schedule can be found on our website at this [link](#).

FUTURE TEACHERS INFORMATION SESSION ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH: Ms. Carolann Wade, from the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), will be on campus in the Auditorium on Thursday, February 6th, during both lunches, to share information about WCPSS Future Teachers Program. If you have a Senior who is planning to pursue a degree in Education and wants to teach in a WCPSS school upon completion of a teacher education program, this is an important session to attend. Additional information about this program can be found at this [link](#).

SECOND QUARTER AND FIRST SEMESTER REPORT CARDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH: Please remember that First Semester Report Cards will go home with students next Friday, February 7th.

USE OF BREATH-A-LYZERS AT OUR WINTER GALA: 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!

WINTER GUARD COMPETITION: Our Winter Guard will be performing in their first competition at Cleveland High School tomorrow, Saturday, February 1st, 3:20 p.m. They have been working hard on their routines and we wish them well!

BAND SHOUT-OUT: I am proud to announce that we have 11 students who will be performing in the Central-East District Honor Band Festival this weekend at Sanderson High School! What an accomplishment for these students and a continued show of excellence for our Band Program!

ATHENS' GOT TALENT! We are beginning a new tradition at The Drive--*Athens' Got Talent* which will be held on April 2nd 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 5th, 19th, and 26th. This is the perfect platform to show just how much "Athens' Got Talent!" Please contact Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net) if you have questions.

SAT PREP COURSE STARTING NEXT WEEK: Juniors who are planning on taking the SAT on Saturday, March 14th may want to sign up for the SAT Prep Course offered at Athens Drive. The Third Quarter SAT Prep Course is starting on Monday, February 3rd and Tuesday, February 4th to prepare for that SAT Test administration. Classes meet once a week on either Mondays from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. or Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Please contact Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net) or visit the Athens Drive website for more information. Space is limited, so register now!

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 26th, 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 24th. Once a student signs-up they will receive a pass to attend the meeting.

ACT TEST ADMINISTRATION: In looking ahead, please know that we will be administering the ACT Test to all Juniors on Tuesday, February 25th. 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.

CURRICULUM NIGHT AND FRESHMAN OPEN HOUSE: On Thursday, February 27th, 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.

ATHLETICS: 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, Track is competing tomorrow, and our Wrestling, Cheerleading, and Swim Teams have Regional Championships coming up. Please continue to check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) for all our game dates and times. Thank you for supporting our incredible student athletes!

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

REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKLY MESSAGES:

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) or Ms. Ruthven (kruthven@wcpss.net). Thank you for your support of this project!

MAGNET SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION: We received notification this week that we were selected as a Magnet School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America! 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. For the last three years we have been recognized as either a Magnet School of Distinction or a Magnet School of Excellence! 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!

MID-YEAR CLASS RANK AND SCHOOL REPORTS: Mid-Year Class Rank will be run on Friday, February 14th. 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 will be available at the Front Desk of the Student Services Office beginning Tuesday, January 21st. 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 25th. 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](#)

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 7th. 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 PICTURE: Our Senior Class took their whole class group picture for the Yearbook this week. Students and families can purchase the large panoramic picture online for \$15.00 by visiting www.strawbridge.com and use the code: FM318608.

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 10th, 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 8th, 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).

ATHLETICS—JAG CLUB: Are you interested in helping with the JAG Club this year? Please email Lori Airee (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/>).