

Good Afternoon, this is Steve Mares, principal of Athens Drive Magnet High School with two special announcements. 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.

It was great to have the building filled with students again to start the new year, even if it was for a shortened few days...! I hope you all had a wonderful break and thank you for continuing to allow us to serve your student and your family again in this new year!

I hope you all have all stayed safe and warm over the course of the last few days. Please remember that the Make-Up days for the two days of school we missed this week are as follows: Monday, January 22nd is now a School Day for students and not a Teacher Workday; and Monday, February 19th is now a School Day for students and not a Teacher Workday. Thank you for your understanding and support!

Please know that students will receive their school assignment for the 2018 – 2019 school year during their Drive Time class on Tuesday, January 9th. The assignment strip not only informs you of your school assignment for next year, but also informs you of the type of transportation that will be provided for your student. Further assignment options are also explained in this document.

Please know that in spite of the missed instructional days, our Final Exams for the First Semester will begin on Friday, January 12th. The Fall Semester Final Exam schedule is posted on our website. Please know that our teachers are beginning to give review materials and other Exam information to students during class. However, it is important for our students to study outside of class for their Exams. Our Final Exams will begin on Friday, January 12th with the administration of the English II End-Of-Course (EOC) Test, the Math I EOC Test, and the English III NCFE. On Tuesday, January 16th, we will administer the Biology EOC Test. If your student is not taking one of these EOC or NCFE Exams, he/she does not need to come to school those days. Beginning on Wednesday, January 17th, we will have First and Second Period NCFEs, CTE Post-Assessments, and Teacher-Made Exams. On Thursday, January 18th, we will have Third and Fourth Period NCFEs, CTE Post-Assessments, and Teacher-Made Exams. Then, on Friday, January 19th, we will have Make-Up Exams for any students who may have missed a scheduled Exam earlier in the testing schedule. Please see our website to find the Revised Final Exam Schedule (<http://bit.ly/2AYW4GV>). Please remember that EOCs, NCFEs, and CTE Post Assessments are State-mandated Exams and all students must take these Exams. There are no Senior Exam Exemptions for those Exams. Final Exams count 20% of a students' final grade. Please also remember that if a student does not have a Final Exam scheduled for that day, he/she does not need to be on campus. Thank you for your attention to our Final Exam Schedule.

Please remember that we have a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, January 8th, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Library. Thank you for your support of our PTSA!

The Spring Semester Master Schedule has been modified to accommodate the increase in our student population and the hiring of additional teachers who will begin the first day of the Second Semester. In order to balance class sizes, new classes have been added to the schedule and Counselors are currently working on student schedules. Please be aware that some student's schedule may change slightly due to the addition of new class sections. Request for schedule changes will be available for students that meet the following criteria:

1. Enrolled in a course you have already completed and received credit.
2. Enrolled in a course for which you have not met the prerequisite.
3. Do not have a full schedule of 4 classes.
4. Want to move up/drop down a level in a core class (Must have signed Release form if dropping Honors/AP course).
5. Course needed for promotion and/or graduation

Request for Schedule Change forms are now available in the Student Services office. All forms must be completed and returned to the Student Services office by 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10th. This is a firm deadline and no forms will be accepted after this time.

Once Final Exams begin, Student Services will not be able to sign driver's eligibility forms until all grades are final for the First Semester. Thus, driver's eligibility forms will not be signed from January 11th through February 1st to ensure that all grades are stored and finalized so that we can verify that students have met the educational requirement for DMV. We will resume signing DMV forms on February 2nd.

A Representative from Yale University will be available to meet with our students on Monday, January 8th, during both lunches, in the Library. This is a great opportunity to learn about the various programs that are available, admission requirements, and financial Aid.

Because of the inclement weather we have had, I wanted to remind all of our bus rider families that WCPSS uses a free bus tracking system called Here Comes the Bus. Here Comes the Bus translates GPS data into an easy to use customizable map that works on a computer, tablet or smartphone. It allows you to see where the bus is and how close it is to your stop. You can sign up for Here Comes the Bus at <https://herecomesthebus.com/getting-started/>. You will need the district code and your student's ID number to sign up. The WCPSS school code is 67500. For your smartphone or tablet, download the Here Comes the Bus app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). When entering your student's last name on the app, spell it as it appears on your Home Base/PowerSchool account. If there is a hyphen in the name, make sure you include it. Once activated, you can customize or edit features, including how the app will communicate with you and the size of the notification radius.

Our Band did an outstanding job representing The Drive at the Outback Bowl over the holidays! As usual, they "lit" up the event—both figuratively and literally! They won the field competition on Saturday, December 30th and received the honor of performing pre-game at the Outback Bowl! They also won Marching Grand Champion; First Place—Parade Class 3; First Place—Marching Show Class 3; Grand Champion—Parade; Grand Champion—Marching; and Second Place Crowd Pleaser! Congratulations to the entire Band, Dr. Markoch, our incredible Band Parents, and everybody who contributed to make this adventure possible! What a great way to end 2017 and begin 2018 for our amazing Band!

Our Winter Athletic season continues to move forward with positive results. Over the break our Basketball Team won their holiday tournament, beating previously undefeated and number 1 ranked Leesville High School; our Wrestling Team placed high in both of the tournaments they participated in; and our Women's Basketball Team represented The Drive admirably in their tournament. I am really proud of the sportsmanship and effort our student athletes put forth representing our school. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) for all of our game dates, times, and rescheduled athletic events. Thank you for supporting our incredible student athletes!

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 warm, safe, and enjoyable weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.