

Good afternoon, this is Steve Mares, principal of Athens Drive Magnet High School, with a special message for Friday, July 3rd. A copy of this special message will be posted on our school website (<https://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs>) and emailed and texted to our school families.

REOPENING OF SCHOOL: As I am sure that you have heard, Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) has announced its plan for reopening of schools. We now are expected to open the 2020 – 2021 school year using two options, a Blended Learning (both in-person and remote learning) and a Virtual Academy (remote learning only and no in-person learning at school) option. This is going to be vastly different than all of us have experienced with regards to school in the past. Please know that I haven't even had the chance to review and internalize everything, and even though we have jumped into planning for the implementation of these two learning options, there are still many questions I have and I know you all have. Please know that over the course of the next few weeks, both WCPSS and I will be communicating with you to inform you of updates, information, etc. regarding the start of the 2020 – 2021 school year. We have a fantastic school staff who is ready to meet this challenge and continue to serve our students! WCPSS has already shared several resources to provide information to families regarding this new reopening plan:

- **Return to Campus: Information for Wake County Families:** <https://www.wcpss.net/returntocampus>
- **Return to Campus: Guide for Families:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yg8St2cQtu4u-aQpY8ouHd7XZmRitwP4/view>
- **Virtual Academy:** <https://spark.adobe.com/page/gZeqjfNL8xHKi/>

Despite the many challenges we face because of COVID-19, please know that our focus remains on providing a plan for safe teaching and learning for all students to grow and meet their ultimate potential!

STUDENT SCHEDULES FOR THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR: Please understand that when PowerSchool opens next week for us to again work on student schedules, things are going to change dramatically. With scheduling students for two options—Virtual Academy and Blended Learning—please understand that student schedules will change. As we get information about the choices that families make with regards to what option they choose, we will be changing our Master Schedule which will impact student schedules. Thus, any schedule that a student currently sees, or will see, in PowerSchool is not final. Please understand that based on these new changes to the reopening of school, we will continue to work on our Master Schedule almost until the first day of school in August. Thus, I would ask students and families not to email Counselors or Administrators to discuss schedule change requests. Please understand that a schedule change request process will be established and shared with families in August if there is a need for a student to change his/her schedule.

SUMMER HOURS FOR SCHOOL OPENING: Please know that we will have a few staff on campus each day from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please understand that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the building is closed for visitors. However, for families who have important business, the building is open to take care of those student/family needs. Please know that to best protect our staff and visitors, anybody on campus must always wear a mask/face covering. Thank you for your understanding.

DONATIONS OF HEALTH SUPPLIES TO OUR SCHOOL: I am so thankful to serve in such a tremendous school family! I appreciate those families who have reached out to offer to donate Health supplies and Personal Protection Equipment to our school to use for the upcoming school year. While I do appreciate it, please understand that to best protect our staff and students, we can only accept face covering donations that have been purchased from WCPSS-approved vendors, to ensure they meet WCPSS standards. So, while I am thankful for the offers, I would ask that we wait until we get closer to the start of the school year to see what/how donations can be made to the school if you are so moved to do. Thank you, again, for thinking about our school family as you think about service to your community!

RISEING SENIOR PICTURES: Congratulations to the Class of 2021!! You are now Seniors and I am counting on you for positive leadership in the coming year! No matter what the 2020 – 2021 school year will look like, it will be a fantastic year and I am proud that you have made it this far and are ready to prepare for life after The Drive! One of the first right of passages for the Class of 2021 is Senior Pictures! This year, Senior pictures will be taken through Evan Pike Photography. Evan Pike is a local photographer and is accommodating social distancing and CDC measures. Our Seniors will be photographed outside and on campus. All students will need to have 2 poses taken (both will be used in the Yearbook—one will be a headshot and one a 3/4 length). Please understand that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will **NOT** have draped/tux pictures this year (see [ADMHS Senior Photography website](#) for more details). Scheduling for Senior pictures will be done online, and picture dates span from July 20th through August 7th. **Please note that sessions could be cancelled and adjusted based on our Governor's orders, WCPSS Board of Education policies and procedures, and our own ability to open the school for this service as the summer progresses.** Once a student schedules their picture, please make sure you look for emails from Evan Pike if we do need to adjust Senior portrait dates. Please review this information for Senior Pictures:

- Seniors will need 2 portraits for the Yearbook, both of which will be taken in a single complimentary session.
- Please make sure the Senior wears outfit(s) appropriate for publication in the Yearbook. Please nothing strapless and avoid t-shirts with inappropriate messages.
- Please be aware that locations vary by date, so please wait for your photographer at the following outside locations:
 - July 20th through July 24th: Main Entrance, where our Flagpole and Globe are located.
 - July 27th through July 31st: Gym Entrance
 - August 3rd through August 7th: Library Entrance
 - When you arrive, the photographer might be in the middle of another session but should not be too far away.
- Use the site below to book your complimentary session and please add "mail@evanpike.com" to your email client's safe list or check your spam folder if you don't see a confirmation email after booking:
 - <http://admhsseniors.com/> - Senior Photo Scheduling Site
 - <http://menu.admhsseniors.com/> - Price menu and FAQ
- After your session, you will have the option to purchase set collections or build your own collection. By default, your proofing gallery will be set to prearranged collections. If you want to build your own collection, please contact Evan Pike to switch your gallery to custom collection pricing.
- Please remember that there is no sitting fee, the session is complimentary, and purchasing is optional.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to visit the [ADMHS Senior Photography website](#), contact Ms. Luna (eluna@wcpss.net), our Yearbook Advisor, or contact Evan Pike (evanpike@gmail.com).

CLASS OF 2021 MID-YEAR GRADUATION: If you have a rising Senior who is interested in Graduating Mid-Year (in January 2021 after the end of the First Semester), forms are available on the Student Services website for you to let us know. You can access the Mid-Year Graduation form by following this link: [Mid-Year Graduation Link](#). Please complete the form, scan it, and email it to Ms. Brown, our Dean of Students, at tbrown3@wcpss.net.

BAND SUMMER PRACTICES: WCPSS has determined that on-campus band practices will start no earlier than Monday, July 13th. With continued monitoring and updates from government officials, circumstances may dictate this date be adjusted further. Dr. Markoch and I will be communicating information and updates as we receive them regarding this information. Thank you for your understanding.

RESTART OF ATHLETICS/SUMMER WORKOUTS: WCPSS has also determined that on-campus voluntary Summer Workouts will start no earlier than Monday, July 13th. Again, with continued monitoring and updates from government officials, circumstances may dictate this date be adjusted further. Once a restart day has been announced for Athletics/Summer Workouts, there will be a 10-day window to get all registration paperwork completed prior to the start of Workouts/Practices. Please know that Coach Seese and I will continue to keep you updated regarding this information. Thank you!

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCHSAA) CHANGES TO PHYSICAL POLICY: The NCHSAA has made quite a few changes for the coming year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with regards to Physical forms. The updated policy regarding Physicals is outlined below in the table. We have been informed that all student athletes who had a valid Pre-Participation Examination (PPE) form dated anytime from March 1st, 2019 through May 1st, 2020 (used for the 2019 – 2020 school year) will be granted an emergency one-year extension through the end of the 2020 – 2021 school year. I hope this table helps you understand the new interpretations for participating in Athletics for the 2020 – 2021 Athletic Seasons:

Date of Current Physical	Requirement for 2020 – 2021 School Year
Prior to 03/01/2019	Need valid, up-to-date physical prior to participating.
On or after 03/01/2019 through 05/01/2020	Granted a temporary extension to participate through the end of the 2020 – 2021 academic school year.
On or after 05/02/20	Will participate based on the current policy of being “valid for 395 days.”

If allowed this summer, a student athlete can participate in 2020 Summer Workouts with a physical dated on-or-after March 1st, 2019. Please also remember that a rising Ninth Grade student athlete is also subject to all the above. **Please understand that all student athletes will still need to submit new registration paperwork prior to participating in any Workouts/Practices even if their Physical has not expired.** Thank you for your understanding of the changing aspects of requirements for our student athletes.

ATHLETIC REGISTRATION: All student-athletes will need to complete an online registration through the WCPSS Athletics website prior to participating in any Workouts, Practices, and/or Games during the 2020 – 2021 school year. The link for online registration will be released once a start day for Athletics has been announced.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GEAR/TEAM SHOP: Please use this [link](#) to access our Under Armour Team Shop with Athens Athletics gear. The Team Shop closes on July 4th, so if you are interested in placing an order, please do so soon.

GRADUATED SENIORS WHO NEED TO REQUEST FINAL TRANSCRIPTS: Graduates, please follow the instructions below to submit your final Transcripts to Colleges:

- You must request transcripts using one of the methods listed below:

Method	Cost	How It Is Sent
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<p>College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC): https://www1.cfnc.org/Apply/_default.aspx</p> <p>For North Carolina Colleges/Universities only</p>	<p>Free</p>	<p>Electronically: Automatically sends transcript on the date requested through CFNC Transcript Manager. Seniors must go back in to request final transcript to be sent to all requested schools</p>
<p>Scrib Order Online: https://wcpss.scriborder.com/applicationCurrent</p> <p>For Out-of-State Colleges/Universities and Scholarships</p>	<p>First 3 Transcripts Free \$5.00 per additional Transcript</p>	<p>Mail and/or Electronically</p>

Requesting a Transcript through CFNC for NC Colleges/Universities

1. Go to www.cfnc.org
2. Sign in or create an account
3. Click on “Apply”
4. Click on “To College”
5. Click on “Application Hub”
6. Click on “Request a Transcript”
7. Select school(s) you need your transcript sent to
8. Once all schools are selected click “Request my transcript”
9. DONE

Requesting a Transcript for Out-of-State Schools- Scriborder instructions

1. Go to Athens Drive website www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs
2. Click on “Students”
3. Click on “Student Services”
4. Scroll down to the Scriborder Transcript Order for Current Students & click on link
5. It will bring you to the wcpss.scriborder.com website
6. On the left-hand side under “Select to Get Started” click on the Backpack icon
7. Fill out personal information
8. Select school(s) you need your transcript sent to
9. Submit/Pay (first 3 are free)

CLASS OF 2020 PHOTO AND VIDEO GALLERIES: Please visit our website to see the [collection of photo and video galleries](#) from several events we hosted for the Class of 2020!

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Please know that we are continuing to provide our Food Distribution services to our school families and local community Monday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please know that hot lunches for the day and breakfast for the next day will be provided. This service will continue through the summer. Please know that an updated list of all Food Distribution sites can be found at this [link](#). Please continue

to share this information with anybody in our community, whether they are students of ours or not, who need this resource during these challenging times. Thank you for your help in taking care of our school families and our community!

SUMMER ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR RISING NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH, AND TWELFTH GRADE STUDENTS: Please know that we are working on hosting multiple virtual Orientation sessions for all grades in August. As we learn more about what teaching, learning, and school will look like in the 2020 – 2021 school year, we will share additional information about these sessions. Please keep an eye out for this information as we get closer to the start of the next school year. Thank you for your understanding of the need to change the way we provide an Orientation for our students prior to the start of the school year!

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING A DRIVER'S ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE: To meet the needs of our students and families, we will be implementing the following process to allow students to receive a Driver's Eligibility Certificate (DEC) while our school building is closed due to COVID-19. Please remember that DEC's are only valid for 30 days; therefore, students are only eligible to receive a DEC during this time if they have a **confirmed appointment with the NCDMV within 30 days of the date of the request.** You will start by sending an email request to Ms. Teresa Brown (tbrown3@wcpss.net), Dean of Students, and include the email from NCDMV confirming the date/time of the appointment. You will receive an email confirming the date/time you can come to the high school to receive the DEC. Once your appointment is confirmed with us, the following steps will be taken:

- Step 1: Scan or take a photo of the following:
 - Student's birth certificate or passport
 - Completed Driver's Education Certificate (if it has not been emailed ahead of time)
 - Proof of address if the current address is different than the one listed on the Driver's Education Certificate or the address listed in PowerSchool. Address must be verified for the NC Real ID.
 - Email this information to Ms. Brown, our designated contact at the school. This will limit the amount of paper that has to be exchanged by staff and students. If you are unable to scan or take a photo of the document, then you will need to bring all these documents with you to the appointment.
- Step 2: Bring the following documents to the appointment:
 - Student's birth certificate or passport
 - Completed Driver's Education Certificate (if it has not been emailed ahead of time)
 - Proof of address if the current address is different than the one listed on the Driver's Education Certificate or the address listed in PowerSchool. Address must be verified for the NC Real ID.
- Step 3: Receiving the DEC:
 - Once you arrive for your appointment, a staff member will meet you at the front door of the school (entrance by the flagpole) to receive the DEC. It is important that we limit the amount of direct contact and maintain at least 6 feet of social distance. For this reason, please limit the number of family members (preferably just the student and a parent or guardian) who attend the appointment. Please arrive at the school promptly for your scheduled appointment to ensure that we can follow the social distancing guidelines that have been established.
 - Staff will check the student's grades for adequate progress. The student must have passed 70% of the courses taken in the prior semester to receive a DEC.
 - Once grades have been verified and all other documents are in place, the DEC can be issued to the student.

Thank you for your understanding and support of this process to continue to provide DEC's to our students.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR: Please remember that Monday, August 17th, is the First Day of School for the 2020 – 2021 school year! It will be here soon, so please be sure that you mark this important date on your calendar. I look forward to reconnecting to our students and school families!

I WILL BE OUT OF THE SCHOOL THIS COMING WEEK: Please know that I will not be in the school this coming week. Please know that you can still email me, and I will try to respond as quickly as possible. I just wanted you all to know that in case you do not receive messages from me next week, you will know that I will still be working on plans remotely and I will communicate with you as I can.

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND TAKE CARE: I hope that this message finds our students and school families doing well and enjoying your summer! Happy Fourth of July weekend! As with everything these days, I would imagine celebrations, cookouts, etc. will be more scaled back and low-key. However, I hope that you get time to spend with family and friends (in an appropriate manner, of course...!), to enjoy the Fourth of July holiday, and to reflect on those core values that we all need to cherish and work to instill in our hearts and country. Let's continue to remember and thank those individuals who sacrifice so much for our freedoms, especially now with the COVID-19 pandemic! Please continue to know how thankful I am for each of you! As always, please continue to be safe and take care of yourselves, your loved ones, and each other. **GO JAGS!**