

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:

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): Where can I even begin to write about the week that we have had with regards to COVID-19? First and foremost, please understand that we have worked all week with our students to ensure that they feel safe, secure, and focused on teaching and learning. It hasn't been easy, as there has been so much information inundating all of us all week regarding this pandemic. However, please know that our primary responsibility is to provide a safe environment, conducive for learning, for every student, each day. Please know that we are here to support any of our students who may be struggling due to the implications of COVID-19. Please reach out to us if you feel we can be of service to your student.

Please know that I am receiving passionate emails offering a variety of opinions, thoughts, ideas, and information—families who are keeping their students at home, families who feel that all events should be canceled, families who think that school and events should remain open and on, questions about instruction if schools are closed, etc. I have appreciated the emails and calls that I have received, and please know that I apologize that I have not yet been able to respond to every single one of them. Please know that I have read them and will be responding. Please also understand that I have hesitated to send out updates during the week, because things are changing so fast that I did not want anybody to be misled by one of my messages. WCPSS has been communicating directly with families, and information regarding WCPSS' response and updates to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) can still be found at this [link](#).

These are challenging times as we work to implement the recommendations of the CDC, Health Department, Governor, Department of Public Instruction, North Carolina High School Athletic Association, etc. Please know that we work hard to ensure that the decisions we make are always in the best interest of our students, staff, and school family. I understand that decisions that we make will have families that both agree and do not agree with the decisions. Please know that WCPSS is in constant contact with local and state health officials and are receiving updates and recommendations frequently. This is a very fluid situation and recommendation changes are happening quickly. Please know that I will always work to be transparent in my responses to you and keep you posted on any information that I know. However, most information is currently coming directly from WCPSS, and we are following that guidance as it relates to our school. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me (smares@wcpss.net) anytime you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support, thank you for allowing us to serve your student, and thank you for your patience and understanding as we work our way through this pandemic. It continues to be an honor and pleasure to serve our school family!

SAT IS STILL ON FOR TOMORROW, SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH: The SAT that is scheduled to be administered at Athens Drive Magnet High School tomorrow, Saturday, March 14th, is still on. Any student registered to take the SAT will still be taking the test tomorrow.

JAG CLUB FUND RAISER AT CITY BARBEQUE: Please visit City Barbeque for the JAG Club's next Restaurant Night, which will be held next Tuesday, March 17th. The Jag Club will receive 25% of the proceeds from the night. This [flyer](#) can be used on all orders - take-out and web orders as well as dine-in orders. Thank you for your support of our JAG Club!

BAND CONCERTS: Next week you have two opportunities to come out to Athens and hear some incredible music and witness the incredible talent of our students! On Tuesday, March 17th, our Band will host its Festival Concert featuring the Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. On Thursday, March 19th, our Band will host its Festival II Concert featuring the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Please remember that attendance at these Concerts will be limited to 100 attendees. Please know that we will not be allowing more than 100 people to be in attendance to each of the Concerts. Thank you for your understanding of this new policy implementation.

MUSICAL: I saw the Musical last night and it is fantastic! So, yes, I highly recommend it for our students and their families (due to adult content, we advise a PG-13 rating and do not recommend this show for children 12 and under)! Our Arts Department is amazing, and our talented students shine in this production! Here are the details for the show: Tonight is the last night of the Production! The Athens Drive Theatre Department's Spring Musical, *9 to 5, the Musical*, will have its final performance tonight, Friday, March 13th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in our Auditorium. Our Saturday, March 14th performance has been canceled. This hilarious story of friendship and revenge features music and lyrics written by Dolly Parton. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the door. Please come support the over 75 students that have been working tirelessly to produce a rockin' show. This is truly a show you don't want to miss, so please help us spread the word and bring your family and friends! We also want to echo the words of Dolly Parton, "I believe that charity starts at home." With that, our Theatre Department will also be collecting canned soup, dry pasta (spaghetti noodles) and pasta sauce in order to support U.S. Veterans Corp at the door. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Hayes at ahayes3@wcpss.net.

BLOOD DRIVE: The Blood Drive that was scheduled for next Saturday, March 21st, has been canceled. Please know that we will be working to continue to partner with The Blood Connection for future Blood Drives.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX VISIT: The University of Essex is a public research University located in Essex, England and was established in 1963. A representative from the University of Essex will be available to meet with students that are interested in learning more about the University on Friday, March 20th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Reference Area of the Library. Students that are interested in meeting with the University of Essex representative must sign-up in the Student Services office by Wednesday, March 18th. Once students register for this event, they will receive a pass to attend the meeting.

VACCINE REQUIRED FOR RISING SENIORS: Parents of rising Seniors, your student needs another vaccination! North Carolina law now requires Meningococcal vaccine for entry into Twelfth Grade. What do you need to do in order to meet this standard? Please make sure your student gets the vaccination they need before starting their Senior year. Afterwards, please get a copy of your student's shot record and bring that to school so that we have the record on file for your student. Students can get vaccinated at your doctor or health care provider's office, or you can contact the Wake County Health Center at 919-250-3900 for information on additional places. Please know that rising Seniors will be allowed 30 days after the start of the 2020 – 2021 school year to get in compliance, and then those students who are not in compliance will not be allowed to attend school. Thank you for your attention to this law.

ATHLETICS: Please know that the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) has canceled all Athletic events beginning at 11:59 p.m. tonight, Friday, March 13th. This cancellation will last until at least April 6th. Here is the information that the Principals and Athletic Directors in our Conference shared with our school families: *The NCHSAA has canceled all athletic events starting 11:59 p.m. on March 13th until at least April 6th. Out of an abundance of caution the Tri-8 is also canceling all events for Friday, March 13th. During the time period of March 13 - April 6, there will be no games or practices for in season sports and no workouts for out of season sports. The NCHSAA will be assessing the situation concerning the COVID-19 virus and make a determination on when athletics can continue in the state of North Carolina. The athletic directors of the Triangle Athletic Conference will meet and discuss a plan moving forward once we are allowed to resume athletics. The health and safety of our student athletes and families is and always will be of paramount concern.* Thank you for your understanding of this and know that we will keep you informed of any changes to this directive.

THANK YOU! Those are all the announcements for this week. Please continue to check the Athens Drive [website](#) for general information and to help you stay informed. Thank you so much for your understanding, patience, and support during this unprecedented time in our school, community, state, nation, and world. Please take care of yourselves and each other and know that we are here to support your student! I hope you all have a safe, enjoyable weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.

REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKLY MESSAGES:

COURSE REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR IS BEGINNING: Students received course information in Drive Time today. All registration information, course listing, timelines, High School Planning Guide, and course descriptions are located on this [link](#) on the Athens Drive website. We encourage parents and students to review the material on guide to ensure that students are registering for courses that meet the graduation requirements. Students must claim their NC EDCloud Student Account in order to register for courses. Please visit this [link](#) on the Athens Drive website or visit the Student Services office to obtain instructions on how students can claim their account. Counselors will meet with all students to assist with the registration process. Registration appointments will be scheduled for all students and students are encouraged to attend their registration meeting. A schedule of appointments will be available outside of the Student Services office. Here is the Registration Timeline:

- **February 10th through March 15th:** Registration portal opens for Ninth and Eleventh Grade students. Counselors will meet individually with 11th Grade students for registration and academic planning. A schedule of appointments will be posted outside of the Student Services office. Registration portal will close for 11th graders on March 15th.
- **February 13th through April 27th:** Counselors will meet individually with Ninth Grade students for registration and academic planning. A schedule of appointments will be posted outside of the Student Services office. Registration portal will close for Ninth Grade students on April 27th.
- **March 10th through April 27th:** Registration Portal opens for Tenth Grade students. Counselors will meet individually with Tenth Grade students for registration and academic planning. A schedule will be posted outside of the Student Services office of appointments. Registration portal will close for Tenth Grade students on April 27th.

Students should complete the High School Registration Work Plan and bring it to their meeting with the Counselors. Helpful Hints for registration:

1. Students should register for the 8 primary courses and 3 alternate courses that they wish to take and make sure that there are 3 alternates. ALTERNATE COURSES SHOULD BE COURSES STUDENTS ARE WILLING TO TAKE. STUDENT SERVICES WILL NOT CHANGE A COURSE IF THE STUDENT HAS REGISTERED FOR IT AS A PRIMARY OR AN ALTERNATE SELECTION.
2. Students should consult with their teacher if they feel that the recommendation for a class is not correct or if they need a recommendation for a class. Students and teachers should dialogue about appropriate courses.
3. Students in the STEM Academy should register for the STEM section for English I-V, Math (II & III only), Social Studies, & Science (Biology & Chemistry Only). These courses will be denoted with a W at the end of the course code. This information will be shared in the STEM meetings that will be scheduled.
4. Students in the HSCA Academy (beginning with the Class of 2022) will be cohorted in their English and Social Study courses. These students should register for 10225X0C-English II (H) and 43045X0C-American History (H).

Please know that we build our Master Schedule based on what courses our students register for. We cannot change schedules later when a student changes his/her mind about the courses he/she has registered for. Thank you for helping us ensure that students select the courses they need and the courses they want during this registration period.

SOLAR PANELS ARE INSTALLED! The Athens Drive Magnet High School STEM Energy and Sustainability Academy is excited to announce the installation of a mounted solar panel array on the school's campus! A group of former STEM students, led by Rocco Nociti and including Alexandra Schneider, successfully wrote a matching grant through NC GreenPower to have the system installed. With the additional help of Camilla Araujo, they then proceeded to lead a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary funds to be matched. After a lengthy scheduling and City/School System permitting process, I'm happy to announce that installation has been completed! We are waiting for the final "tie-ins", but the solar panel array has been

installed and you can see them as you approach the Library entrance to our school. We look forward to utilizing data from these panels to support teaching and learning in our classrooms!

SENIOR NEWS: Senior Families, as we are one week away from finishing February (and only 68 school days left until Graduation!) it is important to make sure you and your Senior are ready! First, have you ordered your Cap and Gown from Jostens yet? If not, please go to Jostens.com and order as soon as possible! Jostens will be distributing them on Thursday, April 2nd during both "A" and "B" Lunches! Second, make sure your Senior stays on track to pass all their classes and Graduate! Third, think about tickets to Graduation. Each Graduate will receive 6-tickets to Graduation at the mandatory Graduation Practice on June 8th (your Senior must attend the Graduation Practice in order to participate in Graduation!). It is unclear at this time if there will be any extra tickets available beyond the six tickets you will be provided. Mr. Remaley will be sending out updated information as we get closer to Spring Break. Finally, please be sure you are receiving the Remind Senior Class text message! Do you need to join? Text the message: @remaley-5 to the number 81010. If you have any Senior questions, please direct them to Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net).

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.

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!

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 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/>).