

Good afternoon, this is Steve Mares, principal of Athens Drive Magnet High School, with a special announcement for Monday, March 16th. 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>).

Please know how thankful I am to serve in such an outstanding school and school community! I am very thankful for your amazing patience and understanding over the past week as we deal with the ramifications of COVID-19. As has been said many times, this pandemic is unlike anything that we have experienced, and as information and recommendations seem to change almost hourly, decisions are continually evolving. Thank you for your trust as we move through this pandemic.

I am sending this message because I do want to share some time-sensitive information and other more general information with you. I will send information when there is information to share, so please know that I may not send information on Friday afternoon as I normally do. Here are my updates:

ATHENS DRIVE BUILDING WILL BE OPEN TOMORROW, TUESDAY, MARCH 16TH FROM 12:00 P.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M. FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS TO GET PERSONAL BELONGINGS: Please know that our building will be open from Noon until 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17th. Please understand that this is not a time for students/families to take care of school business—there will not be opportunities for conferences, paperwork, etc. The building is being opened only to allow students and staff to get any personal belongings that they need that were left in school. All students and staff will need to enter through the Front Doors of the school only (by the Flagpole) and will need to sign-in and sign-out when they leave. I am not sure how many students and staff will need to take advantage of this opportunity, so please be understanding if there is a line and understand if it takes time to get everyone signed-in and signed-out. The only entrance and exit students and staff need to use is the Front Entrance. Thank you for your adherence to this rule regarding the opening of the building tomorrow.

STUDENT MEDICATION: Please know that we will continue to safely store student medications at school. However, if you would like to pick up your student's medication(s), we will have medication administration staff members available to follow the required process for pick up tomorrow while the building is open. Please understand that in order to comply with health regulations, we must be two staff members present along with the parent when medications are counted and transferred to the control of the parent/guardian.

LIBRARY IS CLOSED AND NO BOOKS OR TECHNOLOGY CAN BE CHECKED OUT: Please know that we are unable to check-out books or technology to students. Thank you for your understanding.

THERE WILL BE NO ACCESS FOR ANYBODY TO ENTER THE BUILDING AFTER TOMORROW: Please understand that we will not be opening the building after tomorrow's opportunity to enter the building.

SPRING BREAK: I have been informed that WCPSS cannot offer guidance about Spring Break plans at this time. As you know this is a very fluid situation and more information will be coming out later regarding Spring Break.

TEACHING AND LEARNING: Please know that WCPSS is working to provide optional supplemental materials for students. Please know that as soon as we get final direction and guidance regarding this, we will be working with our students to provide this information.

MESSAGE FROM WCPSS REGARDING FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR STUDENTS: Tomorrow we will be packing and distributing food packages to our school families that count on our Food Pantry and Backpack Buddies program. I appreciate the number of families who have reached out to me to give information and offer assistance with our efforts to ensure our students and families have food during this closure. Here is information that WCPSS has provided regarding food distribution for our students:

With the announcement of school closures from March 16 through at least March 27, we want to inform you of food access options throughout Wake County during these unprecedented times. A number of schools and community centers will serve as [food distribution sites](#) for Wake County families beginning Tuesday, March 17.

- Families may pick up food at the locations and times indicated below.
- Food will be distributed by volunteers at curbside to minimize safety concerns.
- The food will be placed in safe and sanitized food containers.
- ID is not required to pick up food.

Currently, the following sites will be offering lunch and breakfast for pickup for students aged 18 and under - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning March 17:

- Poe Magnet Elementary School, 400 Peyton St., Raleigh
- Rogers Lane Elementary School, 201 N. Rogers Lane, Raleigh
- Creech Road Elementary School, 450 Creech Road, Garner
- Wendell Middle School, 3409 NC Hwy. 97, Wendell
- Zebulon Magnet Elementary School, 700 Proctor St., Zebulon
- Millbrook Magnet Elementary School, 1520 E. Millbrook Dr., Raleigh
- Briarcliff Elementary School, 1220 Pond St., Cary
- Pine Acres Community Center, 402 McLean St., Fuquay-Varina
- PAVE SE Raleigh Charter School, 3420 Idlewood Village Dr., Raleigh
- Wake County Human Services Northern Regional Center, 350 Holding Ave., Wake Forest
- Washington Terrace Apartments, 1951 Booker Dr., Raleigh
- Raleigh Millbank Apartments, 1500 N. Raleigh Blvd., Raleigh
- The Oaks Apartments, 3911 Water Oak Dr., Raleigh
- New Hope Village Apartments, 4321 Grandiflora Lane, Raleigh
- Casa De Luna Apartments, 3918 Bonnevill Court, Raleigh
- Juniper Level Baptist Church, 9104 Sauls Road, Raleigh

Confirmed Community Sites provided by Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church will have lunch for pickup available to any students aged 18 and under:

- First United Methodist, 117 S. Academy St., Cary, Mon.-Fri., 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

- Chatham Forest Apartments, 880 Glendale Dr., Cary, Tues. and Thurs., 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Apex First Baptist, 419 S. Salem St., Apex, Mon. and Wed., 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Arbors at Cary Apartments, 200 Wrenn Dr., Cary, Mon.- Thurs., 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Crosstimber Apartments 900 Golden Horseshoe Cir, Morrisville, NC 27560 - Mon.-Fri. 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle Mobile Market Locations and Times is available to all community members:

- Abundant Life Cathedral, 4400 Old Poole Road, Raleigh, Fourth Saturdays (beginning 3/28/20), 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Bread for Life Mobile Market at Zebulon Boys & Girls Club, 1320 Shepard School Road, Zebulon, Third Saturdays (beginning 3/21/20) 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Community Helpers Service Center, 111 N. First Ave., Knightdale, Drive-thru, Thursdays (beginning 3/19/20), 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Martin Street Baptist Church, 1001 E. Martin St., Raleigh, Second Saturdays (beginning 4/11/20), 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Praise Temple Mobile Market, 1329, U.S. Hwy 70, Fourth Saturdays (beginning 3/28/20), 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Wake Forest Baptist Church, 107 S. Ave., Wake Forest, Third Tuesdays (beginning 3/17/20), 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
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Please consider taking any food donations to the [Inter-Faith Food Shuttle](#) or [Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC](#) to help those in need.

THANK YOU AND TAKE CARE: I know you realize that this COVID-19 pandemic is an ever-changing, fluid situation. I imagine from a school standpoint, we will be hearing more information in the future from WCPSS and the State regarding Opening of Schools, Attendance, Final Exams, Prom, Graduation, AP Testing, etc. As those decisions are made, please know that I will share that information with you. I also realize that this pandemic is having a negative impact on so many people in our school family, our community, state, country, and the world. Please know that my heart is with all of us during this time. I am incredibly grateful for the number of Athens Drive school families who have reached out to me to ask how they/we can support our school families. That says a lot about our school family, and I am proud to be a part of it! Thank you, again, for allowing us the honor and privilege to serve your student and family! We will get through this. Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other. Go JAGS!