

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, emailed and texted to our school families, and e-mailed to the Athens Drive PTSA email group.

I am honored to share with you that Athens Drive Magnet High School has been recognized as a National Magnet School of Distinction Merit Award winner!! That is an outstanding accomplishment! To receive a national merit award, we had to submit a detailed application that is scored by a panel of educators. Schools are judged and scored on their demonstrated 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 the school's magnet theme. I continue to be proud to serve such an amazing school family!

I want to share with you all an announcement that I made to our entire school today. Unfortunately, we had two fire alarms sound today and we had to evacuate the school for both alarms. Our investigation into the alarms found that both were caused by students vaping in the bathroom. I spoke to our entire school family today and informed them that I was extremely disappointed that our students would risk the safety and security of our entire school in order to vape during school. I informed the students that the consequences for vaping and causing this kind of disruption to our learning would result in a five-day out-of-school suspension. In light of the horrific events over the past few weeks, we are even more closely scrutinizing our policies and procedures to support a safe school climate each day. I also shared with our students that I was concerned that a student who had to vape in school has a problem, and we want to help our students with that problem. I let them know that our Counselors, Teachers, and Administrators are here for them and we will provide support for them to assist them to stop this unhealthy habit. Athens stands for excellence, and this falls far short of that expectation.

I also want you to know that we have been collaborating with the Poe Health Center and we are finalizing a Parent and Student presentation on vaping for our entire school family. We are all concerned about the explosive growth we have seen this year in the number of students who are now vaping. We are concerned about the dangers of vaping for our students, their personal health and safety, and the impact it is having on their bodies. I will have a date and time for this presentation next week and I hope that we can come together to help stop this growing trend that we are facing.

The window for registering for Advanced Placement (AP) exams closes next week on Monday, March 5th. All students who are taking an AP Exam must register online via Total Registration. The Total Registration portal is available on the Athens Drive Magnet High School website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs). Please contact Ms. Brown, our Dean of Students, in Student Services if you have further questions.

The online application period for our STEM Academy and Health Science Academy is now open. The application period lasts until Wednesday, March 7th. The link to the application can be found on the Athens Drive Magnet High School website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs).

This Thursday, March 8th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, our Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble will host their Festival Concert. Please come out to watch and listen to our incredible students share their musical gifts that night!

Thank you to all our families who attended our Curriculum Night last night! It was great to share curriculum information and for our families to have the opportunity to talk with teachers about course offerings. Our students received registration materials for the 2018 – 2019 school year in Drive Time on Tuesday, February 20th. We encourage you to review the Course Registration material to ensure that your student(s) is registering for courses that meet Graduation requirements and support him/her in reaching his/her post-Secondary goals. Detailed course descriptions and the High School planning guide are available on our website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs). Students must claim their NCEDCloud Student Account to register for courses. Please visit the website or visit the Student Services office to obtain instructions on how to claim your account. Please know that Counselors will meet with students to assist with the registration process. Juniors will meet with Counselors individually and a schedule of appointments is available outside of the Student Services office. Counselors are continuing to conduct Junior conferences through March 15th. The registration portal for

current Freshmen and Sophomores will be open from March 9th through April 20th. Counselors will conduct Registration/Academic meetings with Sophomores from March 19th through April 9th. A schedule of Sophomore conferences will be posted outside of Student Services on March 9th. Please encourage your student(s) to attend their scheduled meeting. Counselors will conduct Registration/Academic meetings with Freshmen in small groups from April 10th through April 23rd.

Please remember that with the beginning of our Spring sports season, we have a home game, meet, or match of some sort almost every night of the week. Please remember that game dates and times are always posted on the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs). In addition, please be sure to follow @athensjags on Twitter for up-to-date information on Jaguar athletics.

Those are all 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 safe, wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.