

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.

As you all know, our students led a walk-out today beginning at 9:15 a.m. and ending at approximately 9:45 a.m. I would estimate approximately 1,000 of our students participated in the walk-out in a peaceful, respectful manner. While staff did not participate in the walk-out, please know we provided supervision to ensure the safety and well-being of our students. For those students who did not participate, instruction continued in the class as usual. At the end of the day during my announcements, I told the students how Mr. Santangelo, our Chorus Teacher, at the end of the Chorus Concert last night, sang *Imagine*, by John Lennon. I shared (and thankfully for our students, I did NOT sing it) how the last line of the song is: And the world will be as one. I talked to our students about how we are a family at Athens Drive, and I wanted to let them know that the teachers and staff at Athens Drive are honored to serve them and watch them grow. I know our world is experiencing challenging events and times, but please know that as a school family we work hard to come together and to take care of each other each day. I see examples of that love and care every day, and I believe that is what is going to make us stronger and better. I let our students know that we are thankful for our students who do those little and big things each day to make such a positive difference at The Drive to support not only teaching and learning, but make our school, our school family, community, and our world better.

Speaking of making a difference, I am proud that our Athens Drive Student Government is joining with other High Schools across the county to support the Cinderella Project. This is an initiative started by Middle Creek High School that allows students to select donated Prom Gowns, Tuxedos, shoes, and all the accessories at no charge. The event will be held tomorrow, Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in our Cafeteria. Thank you for your donations and for spreading the word about this wonderful opportunity for our students and school family to give back to other students!

Seniors, Jostens will be on campus on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> during both lunches in the Gym Lobby to deliver Cap & Gowns and Senior products. All items must be paid for in full before students can receive their products. Online payments must be made 48 hours prior to the delivery date on Tuesday. Cash or Money Order only will be accepted on the delivery date. If you still need to place an order, please go to [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com). This is an exciting time for us and for our Seniors—only 49 more school days until Graduation!

Please remember that Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> is a make-up school day for the school cancellation for snow. Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> is no longer a Teacher Workday, but a school day for students. Please remember that it is also now the last day of our Third Quarter. Spring Break begins on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and ends on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, so there is no school for students beginning Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, through Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The first day back to school after Spring Break is Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and that will begin our Fourth Quarter. Please remember that Third Quarter Report Cards will go home on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

I am looking forward to attending our Gradman celebration on Thursday night, March 29<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m.! The Gradman 2018 Talent Show "*Keeping up with the Gradmen*" will be held in the Auditorium and tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5.00. What is Gradman? It is a talent show put on by the Student Government featuring 12 Seniors chosen by the Senior Class representing categories like Mr. Intelligent, Mr. Cute, Mr. Athletic, and more. Each Gradman has selected a charity to represent, the event is scored by a panel of judges, and the winning Gradman earns a check written to their Charity in their name! All proceeds from ticket sales, t-shirt sales, and donations will be given to the winner's Charity. I look forward to a fun, traditional, and entertaining evening with our Seniors, and I am proud of their efforts to raise money to support others and make a difference!

I want to encourage our Seniors in the Class of 2018 that there are still several great scholarships available, and we add new scholarships to our list as we get additional information. An example of a new Scholarship being offered is the **Charles A. Moss Jr. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Freshman Scholarship**. This scholarship honors an Athens Drive High School student who is accepted to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and need economic assistance for college. The scholarship will award \$5,000.00 towards the selected student's Freshman year university expenses. The award will be divided between the First

and Second Semester costs with First Semester attendance and academic requirements to meet in order to retain the Scholarship for Second Semester. Please visit <http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com/scholarships.html> to get additional information about this Scholarship and all the Scholarships we have listed. We look forward to our Senior Assembly where we will honor our Seniors who earned Scholarships!

Any of our rising Seniors who are in the Class of 2019 and who are interested in Graduating Mid-Year, or would like to apply for Early Release/Late Arrival for the 2018 – 2019 school year, forms are available in the Student Services office. Please complete the appropriate forms and return them to the Student Services office by June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Course registration for the 2018 – 2019 school year continues to move forward. We are continuing to meet with rising Juniors to complete their course selections for next year. Counselors will conduct Registration/Academic meetings with rising Sophomores in small groups from April 9<sup>th</sup> through April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please be talking with your student about the courses they are selecting for next year as we work to ensure that all our students are on a path to Graduate and reach their goals.

Please remember that we have finalized a day and time for our presentation on Vaping by the Poe Health Center for our students and families. We will hold this informational presentation on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, in conjunction with our PTSA meeting. The Poe Health Center will be leading these presentations, and the evening will consist of both separate sessions for students and families, and a combined session for all of us. As I have stated before, we have seen a dramatic increase in vaping at Athens Drive, and we are concerned about the negative impacts on our students' health and the school disruption it is causing. I hope this is an informative presentation so that all of us can become more aware of the ramifications of vaping.

I want to remind you to put April 25<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. The Athens Drive Theatre Department is deep into the rehearsal process for their much-anticipated spring musical, *In the Heights*! *In the Heights* tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood—a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the warm breeze carries the melodic rhythms of three generations of music. It is a story about a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams, and financial pressures. At its core, it is an ode to self-discovery and references how some of life's biggest struggles center on deciding which cultural traditions you take with you and which ones you choose to leave behind. *In the Heights* was Lin-Manuel Miranda's first success (you might know his name...he wrote *Hamilton*) and was the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography, and Best Orchestration. Athens Drive has never produced anything quite like this and you will be in awe of our incredibly talented cast and crew of students! This is not a show you will want to miss! Performances begin at 7:00 p.m. each night of Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the door. You may want to arrive early as we are expecting big crowds. Please know that due to some strong language in the show, this Musical is not recommended for children under the age of 12. I am very proud of the hard work our students have been putting in preparing for this Musical!

Please remember that we have a home game, meet, or match of some sort almost every night of the week. Please remember that the most up-to-date game dates and times are always posted on the Athens Drive Athletics website ([www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs](http://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](http://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs)) for general information to help you stay informed. I hope you all have an enjoyable, safe, and wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.