

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.

Please remember that tomorrow, Friday, March 30th is a Holiday and there is no school for students. Next week is our Spring Break, so there is no school for students until Monday, April 9th, which is also the first day of the Fourth Quarter. Please remember that Third Quarter Report Cards will go home on Friday, April 13th.

Don't forget that tonight we are celebrating our Gradmen! I am looking forward to attending our Gradman celebration tonight, March 29th, 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!

Please remember that our PTSA and the Poe Health Center are hosting a *Navigating "The Talk"* for our students and families to learn about resources and tools to assist us in developing and tailoring the talk with our teens about social media, teen relationships, and substance abuse, with a focus on vaping. We will hold this informational presentation on Tuesday, April 10th, 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.

I want to remind you to put April 25th through April 27th 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 25th through Friday, April 27th. 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!

I continue to encourage our Seniors to apply for the myriad of Scholarships available to them! Another Scholarship for our students to apply for is the PTSA Sponsored Senior Scholarships. There are three scholarships available (All Around Student, Civic-Minded Student, Overcoming Adversity Scholarship) and the application is available on the PTSA website (<https://athensdriveptsa.com/class-news/senior-page/senior-scholarship/>). Please remember that students need to be a member of the PTSA to apply for these Scholarships. So, if a student (or your family!) hasn't joined yet, you can still join online or pick-up an application in the Front Office. PTSA Scholarship applications are due in Student Services by Tuesday, May 1st. Please visit <http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com/scholarships.html> to get additional information about 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 4th.

Course registration for the 2018 – 2019 school year continues to move forward. Counselors will conduct Registration/Academic meetings with rising Sophomores in small groups from April 9th through April 26th. 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 mark your calendar to the Jaguar Club and the entire Athens Drive High School family for a benefit BBQ featuring The Embers in concert. The event will take place on Sunday, May 6th (rain or shine) from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Morris Peaceland Farm located at 4200 Graham Newton Road. Tickets are on sale now, \$25.00 per person or \$20.00 for Athens employees. Purchase tickets online at athensdrivejagclub.org. Your ticket includes dinner and the concert. The Jag Club will also have a silent auction and adult beverages for purchase at the event. It is sure to be the event of the season! Anyone is welcome to attend, so invite your friends! Please contact Peggy Cheek (cheek2101@gmail.com) or Jill Tate (gagrits306@gmail.com) for more information.

Also, mark your calendars now for the Jag Club annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 13th. This will just be a fun day of golf and dinner for the participants. Information will be posted on the Jag Club Website (athensdrivejagclub.org) as well as registration information.

Let's hope that when we return from Spring Break it will really be Spring and we will have great weather for all of our athletic events. Please be sure to check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) to see the most updated schedule for our Spring sports and come out and support our incredible student athletes.

Those are all of 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.

Please let me take a moment to thank each of you for your support of our students, staff, and our school. Please know that all of us at Athens Drive understand the privilege and honor we have of teaching your student. Thank you for placing your trust in us to teach your student and help him/her reach his/her ultimate potential! It is always a great day to be a JAG, and I continue to be thankful to be a part of such an amazing school family. Whether your Spring Break plans include travel away from Raleigh or you will be staying in town, I hope each of you has a safe, enjoyable, and fun Spring Break! Please enjoy this special time with your family! Go JAGS and please take care.