

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>).

The Athens Drive Theatre Department's Spring Musical, *All Shook Up!* has had two outstanding performances this week already! There are still two opportunities to see our Musical—tonight and tomorrow night, Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. All shows begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. This Musical is based on William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and features the music of the King of Rock, Elvis Presley! Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the door. I will be there tonight, and I am proud of the effort and talent of our students!

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has informed us that due to maintenance of PowerSchool this weekend and changes in the hosting of the PowerSchool application, PowerSchool will be unavailable from today, Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. and will not be available again until Tuesday morning, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 a.m. All users, including teachers, students, and parents will not have access to PowerSchool until Tuesday morning, March 12<sup>th</sup>. I thank you for your patience and understanding with this NCDPI required maintenance and change to the PowerSchool application.

If your Junior did not take the ACT when we had our school-wide ACT Test administration, he/she will need to take the Make-Up Test on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for helping us ensure that we provide this ACT Test administration to all our Juniors.

Our school has been selected to participate in the CWRA+ assessment. The CWRA+ is a required part of Wake County Public School System's (WCPSS) broader effort to develop a balanced assessment system as outlined by our Strategic Plan. This test measures concepts, like Critical Thinking, which we are not able to measure using only End-Of-Course and North Carolina Final Exams. It also provides our Superintendent with valuable data on how we are doing as a School and District. This assessment lasts approximately 90 minutes. This morning we gave information to approximately 200 Juniors who were randomly selected to take this assessment. We will be giving the CWRA+ on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week in small groups to those students.

Next Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, is our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Athens Drive! Our plan is to begin the festivities from 3:30 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. with faculty and student alumni meeting and greeting, and we will have tours of the school available. From 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., we will be hosting a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Panel in the Auditorium with esteemed guests that played an important role in our school history. In addition, we also have several athletic events happening that night for alumni and families to attend, and at 7:00 p.m. we will have a Band Concert in the Auditorium as well. Please email Ms. Tonya Hinton ([tchinton@wcpss.net](mailto:tchinton@wcpss.net)) if you are interested in assisting with this event or would like additional information. We look forward to a great night celebrating 40 years of excellence at The Drive!

As I just mentioned, our Band will be holding its Festival Concert II on Thursday night, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served after the Concert. The performance will feature our top two bands: Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Please plan on staying after our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to enjoy the talents and sounds of our students.

The Athens Drive Student Government is once again sponsoring the Cinderella Project. The Cinderella Project is an opportunity for students to get free Prom dresses, shoes, accessories, and a limited amount of men's suit coats, pants, and shoes. We are currently taking donations of any of these items by dropping them off in Room 1920. Mark your calendars for the following dates when students can stop by and see what we have to offer: April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> during Lunch and After School in the Library, and then on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. If you are on Instagram, then follow us at: @adncinderella (you can even reserve a dress through Instagram!). If you have any questions, please direct them to Scott Maxwell ([smaxwell@wcpss.net](mailto:smaxwell@wcpss.net)) or Chris Remaley ([cremaley@wcpss.net](mailto:cremaley@wcpss.net)).

Also, students can go to The Prom Shoppe, an outreach ministry for Apex United Methodist Church, that provides prom dresses, shoes, jewelry, and accessories to area teens at no cost. The Prom Shoppe will be open Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Prom Shoppe is located at the Apex United Methodist Church Christian Life Center, at 100 S. Hughes Street in Apex. For more information, please contact Stacy Kivett ([prom.shoppe@apexumcfamily.org](mailto:prom.shoppe@apexumcfamily.org)).

The Athens Drive Magnet High School Food Pantry is now open! Our Food Pantry is a collaborative effort with the Food Bank of North Carolina to serve Athens Drive Magnet High School, A.B. Combs Elementary School, Dillard Drive Middle School, and Centennial Middle School students and their families. We are so excited about this opportunity allowing us to reach our families in a new way, as we know that our students have difficulty learning when they are hungry. If we have the opportunity to help meet this basic need for our students and their families, we are excited to take it. Our Food Pantry will operate from 2:00 p.m. until 3:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you need to make an appointment to shop outside of our regular hours of operation, please contact Ms. Boothe ([kboothe@wcpss.net](mailto:kboothe@wcpss.net) or (919) 233-4050 ext. 24894) and she can assist you. Thank you for your support of this new endeavor to support our students and their families.

Counselors are currently conducting Junior Conferences. A copy of the schedule for Junior conferences is located outside of the Student Services office. Please encourage your student to attend their conferences because counselors will be assisting each student with course registration for the 2019 – 2020 school year as well as providing information to assist students with preparing for their Senior year.

Counselors will be conducting Sophomore Conferences starting March 18<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the schedule for Sophomore conferences is located outside of the Student Services office.

Counselors are currently conducting Freshman Conferences. Counselors will meet with students individually to assist students with course registration for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

Seniors had the opportunity to verify the correct spelling of their name for their Diploma during Drive-Time. Ask your Senior if they signed-off on their Name Verification during Drive-Time, and if they did not, then please encourage them to go to Student Services as soon as possible and verify it. This is important information that we will use to print Diplomas and create the Graduation Program.

Seniors, Jostens will be distributing Cap and Gown orders on March 25<sup>th</sup> during both Lunches in the Gym Lobby. Seniors who have yet to order need to do so as soon as possible, otherwise they will not receive their Cap and Gown until Jostens returns in April. Cap and Gown ordering can be done online by visiting [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com). Payment balances must be paid before the Cap and Gown can be picked up. If you have any questions about balances or other Senior items, please contact Mr. Remaley ([cremaley@wcpss.net](mailto:cremaley@wcpss.net)) for answers to your questions.

The application for Athens Drive Magnet High School PTSA Senior Scholarship is available on the Student Services website (<http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com/scholarships.html>). Information on the PTSA Senior Scholarship can also be found on the PTSA website (<https://athensdriveptsa.com/class-news/senior-page/senior-scholarship/>) as well. All applications are due to the Student Services office by Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Charles A. Moss, Jr. UNC Freshman Scholarship honors and promotes Athens Drive Magnet High School students who are accepted to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and are in economically challenged situations. This scholarship was originated by the siblings of Charles Moss to honor his work in their mother's name. Charles is the proud father of two Athens Drive graduates, who is a strong proponent of the school and the surrounding community. The purpose of the Scholarship is to promote the values the family strongly holds. The Scholarship will award approximately \$5,000.00 towards the winning 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 attain in order to retain the scholarship for second semester. Visit the Student Services website (<http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com/scholarships.html>) for information on this and other Scholarships.

Juniors, the final SAT Prep Course of the year is starting April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to prepare students for the June SAT Test. Any Juniors interested in registering for this class can contact Mr. Remaley ([cremaley@wcpss.net](mailto:cremaley@wcpss.net)) for details. Course information can also be found on the front page of the Athens website (<https://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs>).

Looking ahead, we ask you to save the date for our Spring Beautification Day that will be held on Saturday, April 13th, 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. We will mulch, weed, and clean up our gardens in front of the school as well as some other garden maintenance and clean-up efforts. This is a great opportunity for students to earn Volunteer Service Hours and support our school! If you would like to help and/or lead an area of clean up, please contact John Sykes ([jsykes02@bellsouth.net](mailto:jsykes02@bellsouth.net)). Thank you for all you give to the Athens Drive family!

I am proud of the way our Spring student-athletes have represented us on the court, track, and fields! 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. Due to rain, we have already had several changes to our athletic calendar, so 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. Thank you, as always, for all your support of our student athletes!

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. Don't forget to Spring your clocks forward on Saturday Night! I hope you all have a safe, wonderful weekend! Go JAGS and please take care.