

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 want to let you know that I spoke with our entire student body this week to discuss a few changes with regards to policies and procedures. Please know that in listening to our students and hearing about the difficulty in getting across our campus in 5 minutes, we have added one minute to the change of classes. Students will now have 6 minutes to get to class instead of 5 minutes. We also have changed the consequences for being tardy. We have established a Lunch Detention for students to serve once they accumulate their 9th tardy. Additional tardies result in Lunch Detention, In-School-Suspension, and After-School Detention. Please understand that it is my hope that our students are in class, on time, ready to learn to start each period. I also informed our students that we have had way too many students leaving campus who are not eligible to leave campus. Only Juniors and Seniors who have an authorized off-campus lunch pass are eligible to leave campus. All other students must remain on campus in one of the designated areas to eat or attend tutorials. Finally, I informed students that they are not allowed to bring their breakfast or lunch into class and eat. Thank you for your support of our efforts to provide a school climate that is safe and conducive to teaching and learning.

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 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. We will begin advertising for this presentation next week, but I wanted you to know to get it on your calendar. 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.

The window for registering for Advanced Placement (AP) exams via total registration has closed. Students that did not register for the AP exam by the deadline must attend the AP late registration meeting scheduled for Monday, March 12th, during "A" lunch in the Library Computer Lab. This will be the last opportunity for students to register for the 2018 AP exams. Please contact Mrs. Brown in Student Services if you have any further questions.

We will have a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, March 13th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Thank you for attending this meeting to see how you can continue to make a positive difference and support our students, staff, and school family.

On Thursday, March 15th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, our Band will host their Festival Concert II, featuring the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. This is an outstanding opportunity to hear our talented students and refreshments will be served following the Concert.

We are continuing with Course Registration for the 2018 – 2019 school year. The registration portal for current 11th Grade students is open until March 16th. Counselors are continuing to conduct Junior conferences through March 15th. A schedule of Junior conferences is available outside of Student Services, and I ask that you please encourage your student(s) to attend their scheduled meeting. The registration portal for current 9th and 10th Grade students will be open from today, March 9th through April 23rd. Counselors will conduct Registration/Academic meetings with all 10th Grade students from March 19th through April 9th. A schedule of Sophomore conferences is posted outside of Student Services. Again, please encourage your student(s) to attend their scheduled meeting. Counselors will conduct Registration/Academic meetings with all Freshmen in small groups from April 10th through April 23rd. A schedule will be shared in late-March regarding this schedule.

The 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 on Saturday, March 24th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. We are currently collecting any and all donations!

If you have items to donate, please drop them off in the Library anytime. Thank you for your support of this outstanding service initiative led by our Student Government!

Please remember that the Third Quarter ends on Thursday, March 29th and the Fourth Quarter begins after Spring Break on Monday, April 9th. I know this has been a long stretch of classes and I just want to ask parents to help remind our students, including our Seniors, to stay focused on finishing the Third Quarter strong and building for a great ending to the 2017 – 2018 school year. Please remember that Third Quarter Report Cards go home on Friday, April 13th.

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). 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, warm, and wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.