

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>).

I appreciate the hard work and efforts of our students who have begun Advanced Placement (AP) testing! AP testing will continue through Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure your student knows the testing days and times and please be sure that they are early and not just on-time for each test. Please remember that cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in testing. If you have any questions regarding AP exams please contact Mrs. Brown ([tbrown@wcpss.net](mailto:tbrown@wcpss.net) or 919-233-4050 x24898) or Ms. Boothe ([kboothe@wcpss.net](mailto:kboothe@wcpss.net) or 919-233-4050 x24894) in Students Services.

Senior Parents, during Drive Time today our Seniors were given their Graduation Handbook! This is an informative document that shares all the activities that remain for our Seniors, including detailed information about Graduation on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have not seen the hard copy that we provided our Seniors, you can find the Graduation Handbook on the Athens Drive website ([Graduation Handbook](#)).

All seniors were given a copy of the Senior Intent Form in Drive Time back in March. Every Senior MUST complete the Senior Intent Form before graduation. Please be sure your Senior has completed their form and returned it to the Student Services office as soon as possible. Additional Senior Intent Forms are available in the Student Services office.

The Scholarship Information Form was given to all Seniors in Drive Time in March, as well. We would love to recognize ALL the accomplishments of the Class of 2019 at our Senior Awards Assembly scheduled for Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. If your student is receiving any Scholarships (even if they are not accepting the scholarship!), please be sure your student has completed the Scholarship Information Form. Please indicate all Scholarships received on the Scholarship Information Form and attach a copy of the Scholarship awards letter/notification that was provided by the institution/agency that is sponsoring the Scholarship. If your student needs additional forms, they are available in the Students Services office. All forms must be completed and submitted to the Student Services office by next Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Brown ([tbrown@wcpss.net](mailto:tbrown@wcpss.net) or 919-233-4050 x24898) or Ms. Boothe ([kboothe@wcpss.net](mailto:kboothe@wcpss.net) or 919-233-4050 x24894) in Students Services.

Parents of Seniors, we are fast approaching our culminating events for our Class of 2019! One event, the Senior Picnic, is an event that we need plenty of parent support to make happen. Our Class of 2019 parents have created a Sign-Up genius ([Senior Picnic Sign-Up](#)) for parents to sign up to volunteer for the Senior Picnic, which will be held on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for volunteering your time and talents so that we can have a wonderful day to honor our Seniors!

There are some exciting events and activities planned for the remainder of the year for our Seniors, and if you want to make sure you don't miss any important announcements or events, then please join Mr. Remaley's Senior text message group! Text the message: @theremaley to the number: 81010 to join today! Thank you for helping us work with every Senior to not only Graduate on June 12<sup>th</sup>, but make these final days of school ones that they will remember in a positive light! I would also ask that we work together to monitor our Senior's progress towards keeping his/her grades up, paying fees and fines owed, and in finishing the year strong. I want to ensure all our Seniors Graduate, are eligible to participate in all Senior activities, and finish their Senior year with excellence.

Our Marching Band is hosting Orientation meetings for students interested in performing in our Marching Band next Fall. The meetings are being held next week 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Students who play Woodwinds or Brass should plan on coming either Monday or Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> or May 14<sup>th</sup>. Students who play Percussion or who want to perform in our Color Guard, should try to come to as many rehearsals as possible, Monday thru Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> thru May 16<sup>th</sup>. There is no commitment required to attend these very informative meetings where parents work with parents and students work with students. We are looking forward to continuing the tradition of excellence that is our Athens Band!

Our incredible Chorus students are hosting their final Concert of the year. Please come to enjoy their performance on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Admission is free and there will be refreshments afterward in the Lobby. Please come and be amazed with the talent of our students!

I want to give a huge shout-out to Ekklesia Church (the Church who holds their services in our school on Sundays) and our PTSA for their efforts to honor our teachers next week. They are sponsoring our Teacher Appreciation Week activities, and I am thankful for their service to recognize the hard work provided by our dedicated staff. The PTSA has asked that if you are interested in donating baked goods or volunteering during the week, please go to this [Sign Up Genius](#) in order to volunteer. Thank you, again, for all your support of our staff, students, and entire school family!

Parents of Juniors, please know that we had a Junior Class meeting today during Drive Time. This is an exciting time for our rising Seniors as they prepare for their final year in High School! At this meeting we discussed Senior Portraits, finishing this year strong, events that will be forthcoming next year, and talked about Graduation in June of 2020! An important week for our rising Seniors to remember is Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Strawbridge Studios will be on campus taking Senior Portraits that week. Each rising Senior will get a letter with an appointment date for when they are to be here on campus for their Senior Portrait. If a Senior cannot make that appointment, there will be information in the letter to inform you all how to make alternative arrangements. Thank you for being on the lookout for this letter mailed to your home. We are excited for our students as they prepare for their Senior year!

Class 2020 (this year's Juniors), if you are interested in Graduating mid-year (at the end of the First Semester) or you would like to apply for Late Arrival (no First Period class) or Early Release (no Fourth Period class) for the 2019 – 2020 school year, forms are available in the Student Services office. Please complete the appropriate forms and return to the Student Services office by June 4<sup>th</sup> so that we can ensure your schedule is correct for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

If you were unable to attend the Honor Recognition Ceremony for your student last week, there are extra programs available for pick-up in the Main Office. Please feel free to stop by and get a program that recognizes the achievements of your student.

Seniors and parents of the Class of 2019 Health Science Career Academy, please mark your calendars for the Red Cord Ceremony on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at MacGregor Downs Country Club. A sign-up link has been sent to your Senior student with more details. Special guests include Dr. Charles Harr, Chief Medical Officer at Wake Med Hospitals, and Cheryl M. Stroud, DVM, PhD, Executive Director of the One Health Commission, who will serve as our banquet keynote speaker. Please RSVP by today, Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> through the sign-up link sent to your student's email.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:05 p.m., for a night of fun at the ballpark to help support our award-winning Athens Drive Band! Everyone is welcome to attend! The Durham Bulls will be hosting the Rochester Red Wings and tickets can be purchased at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Athensdrive?r=99>. For every \$12.00 ticket sold, the Athens Drive Band receives \$6.00. Tickets are available in Section 212, which is on the First Base side. Once the Band is able to sell 100 tickets, there will be an on-field presentation in recognition of our Band! The deadline to buy tickets is Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support of our Band students and program!

We are hosting a Physical Night on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, where students who are interested in participating on Athens Drive athletic teams in the 2019 – 2020 school year, can come and get a Physical for \$10.00. The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower Gym. Students should bring a completed Physical Packet with them to this event. The Physical packet ([Physical Packet](#)) can be found on the Athens Drive Athletic website.

Our Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will be presenting their Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. This is our Seniors' final performance at Athens Drive!

Our All Sports Banquet is going to be held on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Gym. There will be an athlete's dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria prior to this event. We look forward to recognizing all our MVP, Coaches, and Athletic Department Award Recipients. Please feel free to come out and enjoy this recognition opportunity for our student athletes!

Summer School applications will be available in the Student Services office beginning Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Completed Summer School application must be returned to the Student Services office by 2:30 p.m. on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions about Summer School please contact our Summer School Coordinator, Ms. Johnson ([ajohnson11@wcpss.net](mailto:ajohnson11@wcpss.net)).

I wanted to provide another reminder that 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 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you need to make an appointment to shop outside of our regular hours of operation, please contact Ms. Kendall 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.

Please remember that the Final Exam Schedule for Second Semester Final Exams is on our website ([www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs](http://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs)). Please remember that students should only come to school when they need to take a Final Exam—they do not need to attend school if they do not have a Final Exam Scheduled. It is imperative that students take all their Final Exams, as they do count 20% of a student's final grade for the course. I would ask that you please help us encourage all our students to finish this year strong and to begin to prepare for AP Exams and Final Exams. There is still a lot of time to do good work, and I want our students to finish the year on a positive note. Thank you for your assistance in helping us ensure that we test every student and have a successful end to the Second Semester.

Parents, I am also asking that you please speak with your student about proper behavior, upholding high expectations at all our year-end functions that are approaching, and driving safely in and around campus. We have a long tradition of excellence at Athens Drive, and let's make these last few weeks and special year-end events stand-out in positive ways. I encourage all our students to make positive choices in their lives—at school, at home, and behind the wheel. Thank you for your support.

Please help in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, staff, school, and visitors. We have noticed students are remaining after school for a variety of reasons who are not under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach, or other responsible adult on campus. At the end of our instructional day, only those students who are under the direct supervision of a teacher, coach, or other responsible adult can remain on campus. Students can go to the Library immediately after school, but they must remain in the Library and follow all the rules and policies of the Public Library. Students who do not follow these directions will not be allowed to remain after school once the final bell rings at 2:18 p.m. Thank you for your support.

Please remember that Summer Driver Education registration is now open. Priority registration has ended, but we will continue to accept registrations on a first-come-first-serve basis until all classes are full. Forms and schedules are available in the Main Office and online at the Jordan Driving School website (<http://jordandriving.com/>).

As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, we are starting a 40 for 40 campaign. Through this effort, we are asking that our school family members (past and present) donate \$40.00 dollars for our 40 years of history. This will provide funding for our current student and staff needs and begin to fund a new Scholarship Fund for our Graduating Jaguar students who are planning to attend college, major in Education, and become teachers. We are hoping that through this campaign we can make a positive difference now and help create a legacy for the

future. If you would like to contribute, please visit the campaign link at: <http://bit.ly/athensat40>. Thank you for your consideration in donating and making a difference!

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 want to wish a special THANK YOU to our Mother's for sharing your love and providing a wonderful example to our students! Please know how thankful we are for all the support you provide our students and school! Enjoy "your" day on Sunday! I hope you all have a wonderful, safe weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.