

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>).

What a packed week of teaching, learning, events, concerts, banquets, and a Symposium we have planned for next week! As we get down to the last instructional days and our Final Exams, please keep aware of the outstanding opportunities we have to honor our students, see their talents shine, and recognize the hard work that our students have put in this year!

We will gather to honor our Seniors at our Class of 2019 Senior Awards Assembly on Thursday, May 23rd, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Gym. This will be a great opportunity to recognize the hard work of our Seniors, celebrate the awards and scholarships they have earned, and recognize school-wide awards together as a school family. Families and friends are welcome and encouraged to come and celebrate this special occasion with us! Immediately following the Senior Assembly, we will host our Graduation Reception until approximately 11:00 a.m. Seniors do not have to attend First Period on Thursday but need to dress appropriately (details are in the Graduation Handbook!) in their Caps and Gowns and report to the Auditorium no later than 8:15 a.m. Please know that any Seniors who are not dressed appropriately will not participate in this event. Following the Senior Awards Assembly and Reception, Seniors can leave school for the remainder of the day. What a pleasure it will be to honor this outstanding Class of Graduates!

Then on Friday, May 24th, we will have another opportunity to gather and celebrate our Seniors! We will be hosting our Senior Picnic in Williams Stadium from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The picnic will include a fully catered lunch for the students with grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie subs, and all the fixings! Pelicans SnoBalls will be there, DJ playing music, Dunk tank for ambitious folks, giant inflatable slides, obstacle courses, lots of games (with prizes!), and time to hang out together as the Class of 2019! It will be a memory your Senior will not soon forget! Seniors must purchase a ticket for \$5.00 cash from Mr. Remaley during lunch and after school in the Gym Lobby in order to attend! Tickets WILL ONLY BE SOLD MONDAY-THURSDAY, not on Friday, and a ticket is required to attend the Senior Picnic! If your Senior has any questions, please have your Senior see Mr. Remaley in Room 2618.

Prior to the Senior Picnic, the final Senior Class Meeting of the year will be held. Seniors will be dismissed from Second Period at 10:20 a.m. to report to the Auditorium. At the Class Meeting, Mr. Remaley, Ms. Clarke, and I will discuss end of the year procedures with emphasis on Graduation Rehearsal and Graduation. After the Class Meeting, we will watch the Senior Slide Show put together by members of the Senior Class prior to moving to Williams Stadium for the Senior Picnic. Thursday and Friday are two great days to honor the Class of 2018!

Please remember that for our Senior Picnic to be a success, we need plenty of parent support. 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 24th. Thank you for volunteering your time and talents so that we can have a wonderful day to honor our Seniors!

Parents of Seniors, please help us ensure that all qualified Seniors graduate on June 12th! If your Senior still needs to pass a course or courses, pay fines and fees, etc. please support us by helping your Senior meet these obligations. All Senior financial obligations need to be taken care of prior to Graduation. Seniors who do not meet these Graduation requirements will not participate in Graduation exercises.

Rising Seniors, current Juniors, please remember that from July 17th through July 21st you will be sitting for Senior Portraits. We want to ensure that every rising Senior gets his/her picture taken for them to be included in the yearbook. Information will be posted on the website and mailed home to students from Strawbridge Studios regarding Senior Portraits. 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!

Also, if you are in the Class 2020 (this year's Juniors) and 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 4th so that we can ensure your schedule is correct for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

Please remember that our incredible Chorus students are hosting their final Concert of the year tonight. Please come to enjoy their performance tonight, Friday, May 17th, 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!

Tomorrow, Saturday, May 19th, I look forward to celebrating with our Health Science Career Academy students at our annual Red Cord Banquet. It will be an honor to recognize the Seniors in our Health Science Career Academy for their outstanding leadership and successes!

We are hosting a Physical Night on Monday, May 20th, 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 21st 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 22nd, 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!

We are excited once again for our STEM Academy to host our 4th Annual STEM Symposium on Thursday, May 23rd from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs halls of the school. While the night is especially for STEM students, parents, and business partners, everyone is welcome to attend to see what our STEM students have worked on this year in addition to their normal coursework. Projects include energy in third world countries, social issues affecting teens, and sustainability in our school and community. I am proud of the work of our students and the leadership of our STEM Teachers. For information when you arrive the night of our STEM Symposium, please go to the Library and maps and information can be obtained there.

Summer School applications are now available in the Student Services office. Completed Summer School application must be returned to the Student Services office by 2:30 p.m. on Friday, June 21st. If you have questions about Summer School please contact our Summer School Coordinator, Ms. Johnson (ajohnson11@wcpss.net).

Please remember that the Final Exam Schedule for Second Semester Final Exams [Schedule](#) is posted on our website. 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 students' 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 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.

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 wonderful, safe weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.