

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 an amazing week to be a JAG! What a pleasure it was to be a part of our Senior Awards Assembly where we were able to recognize all our Graduating Seniors! This is what we are about, and it was an excellent ceremony to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Class of 2019! A huge shout-out to our Seniors who have, to date, earned scholarships totaling almost 6.5 million dollars!! It was also wonderful to spend time together as a Class at the Senior Picnic today. I am proud of our students' efforts, and it is truly an honor to be a part of their Graduation celebrations. In addition, this week we celebrated our Health Science Academy Graduates at our Red Cord Banquet, honored our STEM Academy students with our STEM Symposium, recognized excellence in athletics at our All Sports Awards Program, were wowed by the talent of our Chorus, and had an amazing final Band Concert of the year. What an outstanding school family we have, and I am proud to be able to help recognize student excellence in academics, arts, and athletics! It is wonderful to see how our students are able to tap into so many different areas of interest to support their growth and help them reach their full potential. Thank you for allowing us the honor of serving them!

Congratulations to the Athens Drive Theatre Program! They had a truly awesome night at the annual Triangle Rising Stars awards show in Durham on Thursday, May 16th. Our very own Vishal Kasula, Anna Vitipil, and William Wakeford performed with the other 20 finalists in the Best Actor/Actress categories. Vishy was voted the "Triangle Shining Star," an award selected by the Top 20 finalists for the student who exhibits positive behavior and an enthusiastic spirit in all Triangle Rising Stars related activities! In addition, "All Shook Up" won the Marchael Bayne's Best Musical Award! This is the first year that Athens Drive has been nominated for *both* Best Ensemble and Best Musical and their first major award as a Theatre Department! Ms. Hayes and Mr. Santangelo are thrilled and humbled to have been recognized for such a prestigious honor. I am proud of our winners for accepting their award with grace. Congratulations to every student and staff member involved in the Cast, Crew, & Orchestra on a well-deserved win for *All Shook Up!* You "brought it all in" with style!

I would like to highlight some of our athletic achievements that were celebrated at our Annual Sports Awards program on Wednesday night. With regards to sportsmanship, not a single student athlete was ejected from a contest during the Spring athletic season. The programs that were ejection free this year were: Men's Soccer, Gymnastics, Cross Country, Women's Golf, Women's Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading, Women's Tennis, Volleyball, Women's Lacrosse, Women's Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Men's Swimming, Women's Swimming, Spring Track and Field, Men's Tennis, Men's Golf, Stunt, and Winter Track and Field. With regards to accomplishments in all our sports, we had a great year. In the Fall, the Men's Soccer team went to the Elite 8 in the State Playoffs, Will Burke represented the Cross Country team at the State Meet, the Women's Golf team took multiple players to the State Match, and the Gymnastics team finished in 4th place in the State in the large school division. In the Winter season, the Men's Basketball team won a Conference Title for the first time since 1997 and hosted a first round State Playoff game, the Men's Swimming team finished runner-up in the Eastern Regional Meet and finished in 4th place in the State Meet, Shylik Scriven was the first Athens Drive Wrestler to qualify for the State Final Match since 2001, the Indoor Track and Field team sent numerous athletes to the State Meet, the Cheerleaders finished in 4th place in the Wake County Championships, and the Women's Basketball team made it to the Second Round of the State Playoffs. In the Spring season the Men's Lacrosse team had an outstanding season finishing 2nd in the Conference and hosting a First Round State Playoff game, the Women's Soccer team qualified for the State Playoffs and finished 3rd in the Conference, the Men's Golf Team sent Ashwath Kapilavai to the State Match, Men's Tennis had their highest Conference finish in almost 10 years, and the Track team will again send numerous athletes to the State Meet. We also had record crowds at events throughout the year, as our students and families supported our JAGS in unprecedented ways. I want to thank all our student athletes, coaches, trainers, JAG Club, and all our families for your support of Athens Drive athletics throughout the year!

Please remember that Monday, May 27th is Memorial Day and a school holiday. There is no school for students or staff on Monday. I hope all of us can take time this weekend to remember and honor those who lost their lives serving our country.

Seniors, please remember that there is a **MANDATORY** Senior Graduation Practice on Monday, June 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. Seniors need to report to the Raleigh Convention Center no later than 5:15 p.m.! This is a **MANDATORY** Rehearsal and no Graduating Senior can miss this practice. If a Senior fails to participate in our Graduation Rehearsal, the Senior will **not** participate in Graduation.

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. Seniors who do not meet these Graduation requirements will not participate in Graduation exercises.

Our Orchestra will be holding their final concert on Wednesday, May 29th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The concert is free, so please come out and enjoy the talent of our students! Also, I want to offer my congratulations to the Orchestra for earning top scores and an overall Superior rating at Music in the Parks Festival!

Students interested in joining our Marching Band next year must register online at www.athensdriveband.com by Friday, June 7th.

Our last PTSA meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please know that the PTSA is still in need of volunteers to fill important positions for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Please consider if you would be willing to serve in the following positions:

- Audit Committee: Meet monthly with Treasurer to review financial transactions
- Backpack Buddies Program Co-Chair: Organize food pantry, send out sign ups, coordinate monthly pack up days
- Grounds Committee: Coordinate Campus Beautification Days
- Membership Committee: Assist with new member sign-up during school events
- Painless Fundraising Committee: Coordinate grocery store rewards sign ups and Rewards Nights at local restaurants
- Webmaster: Maintain, update, and redesign PTSA website as needed

If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, or willing to help in any other way, please come to the PTSA meeting on Tuesday evening or email our PTSA President, Ms. Lysa Fulbright (lysafulb@gmail.com) with your information or with any questions you have. Thank you for your support of our students, staff, and school!

Final Exams will begin on Wednesday, June 5th. The Final Exam schedule is on the website and we are reviewing each students' individual schedule with them. I ask that you please be sure that your student is present each day to take his/her Final Exams and only comes to school when he/she takes a Final Exam! Final Exams count 20% of a student's final grade, so it is important that our students study for their Exams and take them seriously. I appreciate the efforts of our students to study hard and finish the year strong during Final Exams.

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.

Just a reminder that the deadline for requesting changes to student course registration has passed. Please be aware that we are working on the master schedule for next school year (and will continue that work through the first day of school in August). Therefore, information in PowerSchool will not be completely accurate until early August. If a student should see course information in PowerSchool, please know that schedules are not finalized until the end of the summer.

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).

There is still time to sign up to be a part of the annual Golf Tournament on June 13th at Lochmere Golf Club hosted by our JAG Club. Go to the JAG Club website (<https://www.athensdrivejagclub.org/golf-tournament/>) for registration and all the details. You won't want to miss this great day of fun!

Again, I am very proud of the accomplishments of our students. I ask that we work together to continue to encourage all our students to be leaders, positive role models, and strongly finish this school year. I also ask that we work together to keep them safe and encourage all our students to make positive choices as we approach the end of the school year.

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 enjoy a safe, wonderful, and relaxing Memorial Day weekend! Go JAGS and please take care.