

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://athensdrivepts.com>).

I would like to start my message by giving a huge shout-out to our amazing Special Olympians who represented Athens Drive incredibly well today! Our student athletes brought home a bus load of ribbons and had a great time competing with, and making friends with, students from other high schools! They represented us admirably in their Orange and Blue and I couldn't have been prouder of them! In addition, I was proud of our students who supported them at the event and for our students and staff who welcomed our student athletes back to campus by creating a tunnel for them to walk through with shouts and encouragements! Another example of Excellence at The Drive!

I also thoroughly enjoyed recognizing our Honor students at our first annual Honors Recognition Ceremonies! It is always a great day when we can honor academic achievement and excellence at The Drive! I appreciate the hard work that our students have put into their learning so that they can continue to move forward each year and reach their post-secondary goals! Please be sure they show you their certificate and I hope they completed their "homework" assignment and thanked you for your love, support, and care that you all have provided over the years! Our school family is filled with gifted and talented students and staff, and please know that I appreciate the support you provide to help us work together to help every student reach his/her ultimate potential!

Today, Friday, May 3rd, is the last day for our families to take the Wake County Public School System Districtwide Family Survey (<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/wakecounty/athens/surveys?language=en>). If you have not taken the survey yet, I ask that you please do so by the end of this evening. Thank you for your support in helping us to continue to find ways to best meet the needs of all students and families and help every student reach his/her potential.

I look forward to spending tomorrow night, Saturday, May 4th, at our *A Night in Nola* Prom! I would ask that you please help us remind our students to make healthy, positive choices both before and after the Prom. We want to have a safe, fun, and memorable Prom for all our students. As a reminder, we will once again be implementing the use of breath-a-lyzers at our Prom this year. As an effort to ensure that our Prom is a safe, fun event where the expectation, as is the expectation with all other school events, is that our students can enjoy their Prom without any added pressure of drinking or being around students who are under the influence of an illegal substance. Please know that every student will be breath-a-lyzed prior to entering our Prom. I am communicating this information to our students and to you all, as I do not want this to be a "gotcha." That is certainly NOT the reason that we utilize breath-a-lyzers and I do NOT want our students to be surprised. I want to be sure that our students are aware that we will be breath-a-lyzing at the Prom and I don't want any of our students to make a poor decision to come to Prom under the influence of any illegal substance. Thank you for your support of our students in helping our students make positive choices and decisions, especially during this time of the year.

Don't forget that this Sunday, May 5th, is our JAG Club Benefit BBQ to support Athens Drive Athletics. From 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., the Embers will be performing at the Morris Peaceland Farm on Graham Newton Road and there will be BBQ, drinks, dancing, and a silent auction all to bring our school family together and raise funds for our Athletic Program. Tickets can be purchased on the JAG Club webpage (www.athensdrivejagclub.org) and are \$25.00 per person. Tickets sold at the door will be \$35.00. Anyone is welcome to attend so please invite your friends! Thank you for your support of our student athletes!

Parents, please remember that AP Exams begin next week. 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 or 919-233-4050 x24898) or Ms. Boothe (kboothe@wcpss.net or 919-233-4050 x24894) in Students Services.

Jostens will be on campus for a “Make-Up” Delivery Day on Tuesday, May 7th, in the Gym Lobby during both lunches to deliver Cap and Gowns as well as other Senior products. All items must be paid for in full before students can receive their products. On-line payments must be made 24 hours prior to the delivery date. Cash or money order only will be accepted on the delivery date. If you still need to place an order, go to www.jostens.com. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net).

The Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble will be presenting a Spring Concert on Thursday, May 9th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Admission is FREE and there will be refreshments served afterwards. Come out and enjoy the incredible talent of our students!

Senior Parents, please take time to talk to your Senior about the following items they have been working on in their Senior Drive Time class: (1) the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) Graduation Intent Survey; (2) the Athens Drive Senior Awards Assembly information regarding any and all scholarships awarded; (3) SENIORGRAM from Mr. Remaley regarding how to request extra tickets for Graduation; and (4) their need to indicate their "After Graduation Destination" on a copy of the Diploma list. If you have any questions regarding any of these items, then please contact Mr. Remaley (cremaley@wcpss.net). I want to especially remind our Seniors and parents of Seniors to submit all scholarship information to Student Services so that we can properly recognize our students' achievements at our Senior Awards Assembly! It is great to be able to honor our students for their academic, artistic, and athletic accomplishments! 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 12th, 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.

The Marching Band will be holding Orientations for new students and parents on Monday, May 13th and Tuesday, May 14th from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., in the Band Room. 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!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 19th, 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 16th. Thank you for your support of our Band students and program!

Seniors and parents of the Class of 2019 Health Science Career Academy, please mark your calendars for the Red Cord Ceremony on Saturday, May 18th 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 Friday, May 10th through the sign-up link sent to your student's email.

Please remember that the Final Exam Schedule for Second Semester Final Exams is on our website (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 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 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.

Congratulations to our Men's Lacrosse Team that will be playing in the First Round of the State Playoffs tonight, Friday, May 3rd, against Leesville Road High School! Admission is \$7.00 per person, and no passes will be accepted at the gate. On Monday our Men's Golf Team will play in the Regional Championships in New Bern. In addition, we had several athletes qualify for the Regionals in Track and Field this past week. And, we will find out this weekend about the State Playoffs for our Baseball and Soccer teams. I am proud of the dedication and commitment our Spring student athletes have shown this season, I am proud of the way they have represented Athens Drive High School, and I thank you all for your support of our student athletes!

Please know that on Monday, May 20th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., we will hold a Physical Night in the Lower Gym, and the cost of the Physical will be \$10.00. The new Physical Form for the 2019 – 2020 school year will be loaded on the Athens Drive Athletic webpage.

Please plan to attend our All Sports Banquet on May 22nd beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Gym. We look forward to honoring our student athletes at this culminating recognition event!

Mark your calendars for the JAG Club Golf Tournament on Thursday, June 13th. This will be a fun day of golf and dinner for the participants. General and registration information will be posted on the JAG Club website. Thank you for your support!

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/>).

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 4th so that we can ensure your schedule is correct for the 2019 – 2020 school year.

As part of our 40th 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 to 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) for general information to help you stay informed. I hope you have a wonderful, safe weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.