

Good afternoon, this is Steve Mares, principal of Athens Drive Magnet High School, with a special announcement for Thursday, May 7th. A copy of this special message 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>).

NEW OR UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

LACROSSE TEAM SHARES ACTS OF KINDNESS: I am very thankful that in the spirit of teamwork and taking care of each other, our Women's Lacrosse team created an Acts of Kindness program that they have been working on the last few weeks. My heart swells with pride as I hear and see stories about our students and families finding ways to serve others during this COVID-19 pandemic! A big THANK YOU to our Women's Lacrosse team and a big THANK YOU to all our students, families, and staff who are reaching out in these difficult times to serve others and recognize the excellence in so many people serving and working on the front lines! Enjoy their video at this [link](#)!

SENIOR CAP, GOWN, AND SENIOR YARD SIGN DISTRIBUTION DATE IS TOMORROW, FRIDAY, MAY 8TH FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 12:00 P.M. IN THE SENIOR PARKING LOT: Please remember that our Senior Distribution of Caps, Gowns, Graduation Products that Seniors purchased, and Senior Yard Signs will be held tomorrow, Friday, May 8th, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Senior Parking Lot! Please know the following about this event:

- This event is for Seniors only. I would ask that students in other grades, families of Seniors, relatives, etc. do not drive another car and participate in this event. While we want to celebrate our Seniors, we also need this event to run efficiently and effectively so that we can distribute the items in a timely manner. Family members can be in the cars with their Senior, but not in another car. Thank you all for understanding this requirement.
- Seniors or any other individuals in the car must remain in the car. Nobody in any of the cars who drive-thru our distribution event can leave the car. Thank you for your understanding and adherence to this policy.
- Please remember to maintain social distancing throughout the event, so no high-fives, hugs, etc. out the window for other students and staff that may be there. Thank you.
- Please remind your Senior that he/she must turn onto Jaguar Park Drive, follow Jaguar Park Drive until they take a Left Turn into the last entrance to the Stadium Parking Lot, follow the Parking Lot road in front of the Stadium, enter the Upper Senior Parking Lot where our Distribution stations will be located, and then Exit by taking a Right Turn out of the Senior Parking Lot onto Jaguar Park Drive. We will have staff there assisting, but this is the route for Cap and Gown pick-up.

I am excited for tomorrow! I look forward to seeing our Seniors and distributing these items so that they can get fired up about Graduating as the Class of 2020!

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CLASS OF 2020 TO REMEMBER FUAD BUSISOU: We have been communicating with many students about ways to remember Fuad Busisou, our Senior who passed away on Monday. I am saddened that we were not able to be together at school to support each other as we all deal with Fuad's passing. I feel that has only added to the sense of loss. I also understand the need for our students to gather and commemorate Fuad. However, due to the pandemic that we are dealing with, many of those ideas for gathering just cannot happen at this time. In speaking with Fuad's family and working to respect their mourning and privacy, we have come up with two ways to honor Fuad:

- We will have a collection basket at the Cap and Gown distribution event tomorrow and our Seniors can make a cash donation that we will give to Fuad's family.
- Our Muslim Student Association (MSA) is also leading an effort to channel the support the community wants to show for the family. To continue to benefit Fuad in his scale of good deeds, our MSA is collecting donations to put towards projects in Fuad's name. The Light House Project will host the fund and all donations to the fund will be held in a separate bank account and treated as a family advised fund. A flyer will be available tomorrow for Seniors who are interested in contributing in this manner. Donors can also use PayPal to donate at www.projectlight.house/fuad.

We had Seniors painting the rock today in preparation for tomorrow, and they included a message for Fuad on the rock. I know this is a difficult time for our Seniors, as they deal with Fuad's loss and the loss of many rights-of-passage events. I appreciate the care, concern, and love shown to Fuad, his family, friends, and our school family to support one another. I know our hearts are still heavy, but I appreciate the efforts that our students are making to remember their classmate and friend.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: I just wanted to thank you all so much for the outpouring of appreciation you have shared with our Teachers and Staff! Please know that we continue to be honored to teach our students and serve the Athens Drive Nation! Thank you for caring and thank you for your support!

FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHROMEBOOKS AND HOTSPOTS NEXT WEEK: We will be holding our final Chromebook and Hotspot Distribution event on Tuesday, May 12th, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Library. If you still have not received your Chromebook and/or Hotspot, please come to this distribution event to receive them. We have approximately 50 Chromebooks and 90 Hotspots to distribute.

ATHLETIC UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT COLLECTION: We are hosting an Athletic Uniform and Equipment Collection next Tuesday, May 12th, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in front of Jaguar Stadium. We are asking that our student athletes drive-thru and return all uniforms, equipment, etc. that they may have that needs to be returned to the school. We are asking that our student athletes use the last entrance to our Stadium Parking Lot and pull around to the entrance to the stadium. We will have all our coaches there to collect uniforms and equipment from our student athletes. Student athletes will not need to leave their vehicles, as this will be a drive-thru event with coaches maintaining social distancing standards. Thank you for your assistance in helping us collect these items.

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND TAKE CARE: I am excited about tomorrow's Senior event and I look forward to seeing our Seniors once again! Please continue to be safe and take care of yourselves, your loved ones, and each other. **GO JAGS!**

REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MY LAST SPECIAL MESSAGE THAT I HAVE NOT UPDATED:

STUDENT PARKING REFUND INFORMATION: Due to the Governor's Executive Order requiring our schools to close for the remainder of the school year, families will be given the option to request a refund for the unused portion of student Parking Permits. The refund amount will be \$60.00 to reimburse for 3 months of Remote Learning. Families will have the following options regarding this refund:

1. Allow the refund to carry over to the next school year (This does not guarantee a spot).
2. Receive a refund check.
3. Donate the \$60 refund to the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS).

Please email Ms. Madeline Guzman (mguzman@wcpss.net), our Bookkeeper, or send a letter through the mail to our school (Athens Drive Magnet High School Attention: Madeline Guzman 1420 Athens Drive Raleigh, NC 27606), with the following information:

- Student Name
- Parking Space Number
- Choice of refund (e.g., carryover to next year, receive a refund check, donate to WCPSS)
- Parent Name (who to make the check out to if you want a refund check)
- Address (to mail refund check if selected that option)

This information needs to come from the Parent's email account, and we need to receive this information by Friday, May 15th to process all refunds. Thank you for your timely response to this information.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAM DEMO OPPORTUNITY: Please know that students can utilize the College Board website to access a demo to practice for the AP Exam. This demo walks students through what AP Exam day will look like with their e-ticket: <https://ap2020examdemo.collegeboard.org/>.

SENIORS—PLEASE KEEP WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH OPEN AS WE ARE PLANNING A SPECIAL EVENT AT THE DRIVE! To continue to find ways to honor and celebrate our Seniors, we are planning an event on May 20th (for the Class of 2020) at 2020 Military Time (which is 8:20 p.m. Standard Time). More information will be forthcoming, but I wanted to be sure that our Seniors keep this date and evening open.

PTSA SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MONDAY, MAY 11TH: The PTSA has extended the deadline for its Scholarships. The new application deadline is Monday, May 11th. I would encourage all our Seniors to apply for these Scholarships! The application can be found on the PTSA's website at this [link](#).

SENIOR INTENT FORM—ALL SENIORS MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM! All Seniors are required to complete a Senior Intent form before Graduation. The deadline has passed, and we have not received a form for each Senior. Please complete the [Senior Intent Form](#) and submit it as soon as possible. Please be sure to complete the form accurately and correctly. Please know that part of this form will be utilized to ensure that each Seniors' name is printed correctly on their Diploma. We are asking Seniors to verify their full legal name (name that appears on their Birth Certificate). This information will be verified against the Birth Certificate in each Seniors' cumulative record. The name that appears on the student's Birth Certificate will be the name that will be printed on the Diploma. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Ms. Brown (tbrown3@wcpss.net), our Dean of Students.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FORM: We would like to recognize all the accomplishments of the class of 2020. If your student is receiving any Scholarships (even if they are not accepting the Scholarship!), please complete the [Scholarship Information Form](#). Please indicate all Scholarships received on the Scholarship Information form and attach a copy of the Scholarship Award Letter/Notification that was provided by the University/College/Institution/Agency that is sponsoring the Scholarship. All Scholarship Information forms must be completed and submitted to Ms. Telfair (stelfair@wcpss.net) or Ms. Boothe (kboothe@wcpss.net) by Friday, May 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Telfair or Ms. Boothe via email.

UPDATED COURSE REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR: For those students that still have not completed their courses registration for the 2020 – 2021 school year or have changes to their course registration, please email your Counselor your request by **Wednesday May 6th at 12:00**

p.m. Counselors **will not** be accepting any request for course changes after May 6th. All registration information, course listing, timelines, High School Planning Guide, and course descriptions are located on the Athens Drive [website](#) under the Students tab >Course Registration. There will be a Request of Schedule change period made available for students before the start of the 2020 – 2021 school year. Information about this process will be made available later. Contact Information for our Counselors is as follows:

<u>Last Name of Student Begins With</u>	<u>Counselor Name</u>	<u>Counselor Email</u>
A-Di	Ms. Telfair	stelfair@wcpss.net
Do-La	Ms. Boothe	kboothe@wcpss.net
Le-Ri	Mr. Wright	jwright@wcpss.net
Ro-Z	Ms. Hegarty	chegarty@wcpss.net
Dean of Students	Ms. Brown	tbrown3@wcpss.net
School Assistance Program Counselor	Ms. Burnette	pburnette@wcpss.net

Please utilize these helpful Hints for registration:

1. Students should register for the 8 primary courses and 3 alternate courses that they wish to take and make sure that there are 3 alternates. **ALTERNATE COURSES SHOULD BE COURSES STUDENTS ARE WILLING TO TAKE. STUDENT SERVICES WILL NOT CHANGE A COURSE IF THE STUDENT HAS REGISTERED FOR IT AS A PRIMARY OR AN ALTERNATE**
2. Students in the STEM Academy should register for the STEM section for English I-V, Math (II & III only), Social Studies, & Science (Biology & Chemistry Only). These courses will be denoted with a W at the end of the course code. This information will be shared in the STEM meetings that will be scheduled
3. Students in the HSCA Academy (beginning with the Class of 2022) will be cohorted in their English and Social Study courses. These students should register for:
 - a. Class of 2023
 - i. 10225X0C-English II (H) and 43045X0C
 - ii. American History (H) or AP Human Geography or AP US History
 - b. Class of 2022
 - i. 10235X0C-English III (H) and 43055X0C
 - ii. American History II or AP US History.

INFORMATION ON COVID-19 FROM WCPSS: A good website to stay up-to-date on information from WCPSS can be found at this [link](#). This page shares information and launches you to other sites for additional information regarding Remote Learning, Resources, etc.

GRADING: Please know that I realize that one of the most pressing topics right now is how we are going to implement the new State Grading System. I have received numerous emails with questions, and I respond the same way each time: The Department of Public Instruction and WCPSS will be providing us details regarding the implementation of this new State Grading System soon. Until I receive further direction and details, I want to reiterate that the most important issues regarding Grading are:

- Students will be given a choice between (1) a numerical average, and (2) a Pass/Withdrawal for their Final Grade. For yearlong courses, the Fall Semester Grade will be counted in the Grade Point Average, but the choice remains for the Spring Semester work.
- Across all grade levels, students will not be penalized for work that they are unable to complete during this period of Remote Learning.

Please know that I will always work to provide you with the most updated, detailed information about changes, updates, etc. with regards to Grading. So, please understand that I am not trying to be evasive, I just do not want

to interpret the State's new Grading System without direction from the Department of Public Instruction or WCPSS's information on their implementation and expectations. As I said in my last message, please know that it does NOT mean that teaching and learning are over for the Semester! Please know that I will communicate with you all as soon as I have information from WCPSS on how we will implement this new Grading System. Thank you for your support in continuing to help our students value the learning that they are doing in our Remote Learning plan!

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING A DRIVER'S ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE: To meet the needs of our students and families, we will be implementing the following process to allow students to receive a Driver's Eligibility Certificate (DEC) while our school building is closed due to COVID-19. Please remember that DEC's are only valid for 30 days; therefore, students are only eligible to receive a DEC during this time if they have a **confirmed appointment with the NCDMV within 30 days of the date of the request.** You will start by sending an email request to Ms. Teresa Brown (tbrown3@wcpss.net), Dean of Students, and include the email from NCDMV confirming the date/time of the appointment. You will receive an email confirming the date/time you can come to the high school to receive the DEC. Once your appointment is confirmed with us, the following steps will be taken:

- Step 1: Scan or take a photo of the following:
 - Student's birth certificate or passport
 - Completed Driver's Education Certificate (if it has not been emailed ahead of time)
 - Proof of address if the current address is different than the one listed on the Driver's Education Certificate or the address listed in PowerSchool. Address must be verified for the NC Real ID.
 - Email this information to Ms. Brown, our designated contact at the school. This will limit the amount of paper that has to be exchanged by staff and students. If you are unable to scan or take a photo of the document, then you will need to bring all these documents with you to the appointment.
- Step 2: Bring the following documents to the appointment:
 - Student's birth certificate or passport
 - Completed Driver's Education Certificate (if it has not been emailed ahead of time)
 - Proof of address if the current address is different than the one listed on the Driver's Education Certificate or the address listed in PowerSchool. Address must be verified for the NC Real ID.
- Step 3: Receiving the DEC:
 - Once you arrive for your appointment, a staff member will meet you at the front door of the school (entrance by the flagpole) to receive the DEC. It is important that we limit the amount of direct contact and maintain at least 6 feet of social distance. For this reason, please limit the number of family members (preferably just the student and a parent or guardian) who attend the appointment. Please arrive at the school promptly for your scheduled appointment to ensure that we can follow the social distancing guidelines that have been established.
 - Staff will check the student's grades for adequate progress. The student must have passed 70% of the courses taken in the prior semester to receive a DEC.
 - Once grades have been verified and all other documents are in place, the DEC can be issued to the student.

Thank you for your understanding and support of this new process to continue to provide DEC's to our students.

HOW DO YOU GET TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR YOUR STUDENT? Wake County Public School System has set up a variety of ways to support our students during our Remote Learning:

- If our students are having technology issues, please have them contact the Remote Learning Help Desk at <http://studenttechhelp.wcpss.net> or call 919-694-8100 (Interpreters available).
- There are many helpful guides for families on the [Technology Support for Families](#) page on Remote Learning site.
- Many common technology questions from families are answered on the [Remote Learning Help Desk FAQ](#).

Please know that we are committed to supporting our students and families during this school closure and Remote Learning!

PANDEMIC ELECTRONIC BENEFITS PROGRAM (P-EBT) FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES: Please know that North Carolina has approved the distribution of additional resources to families receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch. The additional benefits will be through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program to help families buy food during the COVID-19 school closure. Please visit this [website](#) for additional information on this program.

APPLYING FOR FEDERAL FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS: I do understand that many of our families are struggling during this COVID-19 pandemic and many families' economic and employment situations have changed during this pandemic. Please know that families can apply at any time for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch, which may then also qualify a family for other State and/or Federal benefit programs. Please visit this [website](#) for additional information on applying for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch.

INTERVENTION TEAM READY TO ASSIST STUDENTS: Please remember that our Intervention Team is holding Office Hours on Friday to assist our students who may need additional help. Any student can access these Office Hours to get assistance with course work, logging into wakeid, navigating Remote Learning, etc. To log-in to these Office Hours, students need to go to: <https://meet/google.com/> and from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.: Nickname: udrive1jlowry and from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.: Nickname: udrive2stephenson. Again, this is every Friday to provide any assistance our students may need.

YEARBOOK: We wanted to let you know that our Yearbook team was able to complete all 324 pages of the yearbook! They worked extra hard to get as much Spring coverage as possible prior to the seasons being shut down and they finished the book last week. This means that our Yearbook is still on track to be printed and shipped out at the end of May. This year's theme was built around the concept of "Like Nothing Else," and has that sure proved true! The cover is bright yellow and includes a laser cut graphic through the cover to a unique pattern in the interior of the book. You can check out a quick peek of the inside of the Yearbook on their Instagram account: https://www.instagram.com/p/B_QKaDmBVaS/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link. We have extended online ordering so that families can continue to purchase books until we sell out. We have approximately 60 Yearbooks left as of this morning. If you would like to purchase a Yearbook, the website address is: athensdriveyearbook.weebly.com. When you click on "buy your yearbook" it will direct you to the specific purchase site. Please know that the purchase site will close immediately upon selling out. As we get closer to our delivery date at the end of May/beginning of June, we will be communicating how we will distribute the Yearbooks to our students. I am fired up about our Yearbook's staff ability to provide our students with a very strong and well photographed book! Now, more than ever, it is important to remember those good moments of this school year! If you have any specific questions or concerns, please contact our Yearbook Advisor, Elizabeth Luna (eluna@wcpss.net).

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR SENIORS: What a great time for our Seniors to be searching for Scholarships and completing Scholarship applications! Please remember that our PTSA is still offering their

three annual \$500.00 Scholarships to Seniors who are PTSA members. The three Scholarship categories are: Civic Minded; Overcoming Adversity; and All Around. Seniors can get more information about eligibility and find the online application on the PTSA website [here](#). Applications will be accepted through Thursday, April 30th. Scholarships will be awarded in May (the exact date is still to be determined). Please also remember that our Student Services keeps a long list of Scholarships for our students to apply for. Please visit our Student Services Scholarship [website](#) to see that list.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: I want to remind our school family that we continue to provide our Food Distribution services to our school families and local community Monday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please know that an updated list of all Food Distribution sites can be found at this [link](#). Please continue to share this information with anybody in our community, whether they are students of ours or not, who need this resource during these challenging times. Thank you for your help in taking care of our school families and our community!