

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>).

Please remember that next week is Thanksgiving, and students will be in school for two days only—Monday and Tuesday. Please remember that Tuesday, November 20th, is an Early Release for students. Students will be released early at 11:35 a.m. from school on Tuesday, November 20th. Wednesday, November 21st is a student Holiday, and there is no school for students from Wednesday, November 21st through Sunday, November 25th. Classes begin the regular time on Monday, November 26th.

The Athens Drive Theatre Department is presenting the final night of our Fall Play, *Football Romeo* tonight, Friday, November 16th. The show begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Athens Drive Magnet High School Auditorium. The Play opened last night to positive reviews, and I look forward to seeing our talented students perform tonight! Tickets will be sold at the door for \$7.00. I appreciate the tireless work our students have put into making this Play so special!

I am proud that our Marching Band and Dance Team will be performing in the Raleigh Christmas Parade tomorrow, Saturday, November 17th! They will also be marching in the Apex Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 1st and the Cary Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 8th. I thank those students for their dedication and hard work in representing Athens Drive so well!

There are going to be two important meetings coming soon for students and parents in our Health Science Career Academy. There will be a mandatory meeting on Monday, November 19th, during both Lunches in the Auditorium for the students of the Class of 2020 in order to discuss their 2019 Summer Internship. Students need to attend this information session and attendance will be taken. In addition, there will be a Parent Alliance Meeting that will be held on Thursday, November 29th, in Rooms 2418 and 2420 beginning at 6:00 p.m. (for parents of Freshmen and Sophomore in the Health Science Career Academy) and 6:30 p.m. (for parents of Juniors and Seniors in the Health Science Career Academy).

Our PTSA will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, November 27th, from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Library. All members of our school family are invited to attend.

I look forward to opening our school on Thursday night, November 29th, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for our Magnet Theme Showcase Open House to share information with prospective families. Once again, I would like to thank our families, students, and staff who will be here sharing information with students and families who are interested in attending Athens Drive. Thank you for letting interested families know about this great opportunity to visit our school!

Our Magnet Coordinator, Ms. Tonya Hinton is coordinating our Magnet Tours for families interested in finding out additional information about Athens Drive Magnet High School. If you are interested in helping out with a Tour (they are held from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.) on the following dates: Wednesday, November 28th; Monday, December 10th; Monday, December 17th; Monday, January 7th; and Wednesday, January 23rd, please sign-up to assist (<https://bit.ly/2zSoBPg>) or contact Ms. Hinton at tchinton@wcpss.net. Thank you for your support of our efforts to attract families to The Drive!

Two big athletic shout-outs for this week. First, congratulations to our Men's Soccer Team for being one of the Final Eight teams in the State Playoffs! I was proud of their playoff success and appreciate how they represented us both on and off the field! I also want to congratulate our Women's Gymnastics Team. Their season culminated a couple weeks ago at the 2018 High School Gymnastics State Meet. As a team we came in Fourth Place in the State and had a couple gymnasts make the podium as individuals (on a few events)! Outstanding! The team also has two Seniors that were honored at the State Meet—Anya Yencho and Kasarah Puryear. What a terrific way to end our Fall athletic season!

The Athens Drive Student Government is once again sponsoring the 3rd Annual Charity Dodgeball Tournament on Wednesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Gym. Registration begins next week and will end on Friday, December 14th. Teams can be formed from all grade levels and abilities and can have 6 to 10 players. EACH player will need to complete the registration form which will be available in the Main Office and around the building on the posters advertising the event. Each player (and any spectators who want to come watch) can choose to either donate \$5.00, donate 5 cans of food, or donate a new, unwrapped \$5.00 toy. All the donations will go to benefit the BackPack Buddies Program here at Athens Drive. If your student has any questions, please have them speak with Mr. Remaley (in Room 2618) or Mr. Maxwell (in Room 2620).

The Athens Drive Senior Class will begin taking Gradman nominations starting next week in the hallway connecting the Math and Social Studies pods. Nominations will be taken through Wednesday, December 5th and then the Senior Class will vote on the twelve gentlemen to represent the categories of Mr. Athletic, Mr. Intelligent, and more! The actual Gradman 2019 "talent show" event will be held on Thursday, April 11th. For more information, please have your student contact Mr. Remaley (in Room 2618).

I am very proud that students in our Health Science Career Academy are planning Athens Drive's first Winter Charity Gala. Our students will be holding a dance for Athens Drive students on Saturday, January 26th, and all proceeds from the dance and fundraising efforts will go directly to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital as a way for us to give back to kids battling cancer and unite our school. If you would like to donate to support this cause, please go to the website (<https://sites.google.com/wcpss.net/admhs-health-science-alliance/2019-athens-drive-winter-charity-gala>) that our students created for this event. I am excited that our students are creating this event to provide a fun evening for our students and to support a very worthy cause.

In effort to support grieving students, our Student Services Department is collaborating with Transitions GriefCare, a division of Transitions LifeCare, to extend its grief counseling services to support our students. Support groups and educational offerings are available to help students develop and strengthen their ability to cope with grief's impact. Topics include understanding normal thoughts and feelings in grief, expressing the pain and complex emotions of grief, identifying new coping strategies and adapting to change, learning ways to handle holidays and special days, and connecting with peers who can relate to similar experiences. Please contact Mr. Wright (jwright@wcpss.net) if you are interested in your student participating in this group.

Please know that we continue to have representatives from universities meeting with our students during the school day. University representatives are located in the area outside of the Attendance office during both lunch periods. This is a great opportunity for our students to learn about the various programs that are available, admission requirements, and financial aid. For more information on the colleges that are visiting, you can contact Ms. Carrillo in Student Services (919-233-4050 ext. 24893) or visit the Student Services website (<http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com>).

Yearbooks are currently on sale for \$80.00 through the yearbook website (<https://athensdriveyearbook.weebly.com>). Prices will increase in December, so please make sure you purchase now for your lowest price option.

Our Winter sports season has begun so please check the Athens Drive athletic website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) for more information about game dates and times and thank you for your support of our student athletes.

Since we are only having two school days next week, I will not be sending a weekly message next week. I would ask that you please continue to check the Athens Drive website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs) for school information for you to stay informed.

On behalf of the entire staff at Athens Drive High School, I would like to wish everybody a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday as it is a great time to spend time with family and focus on the truly important things in our lives. While there are still challenges and struggles in so many areas in our community and world, I hope you get to spend quality time together as a family and reflect on all those many things that are right with the world and that we can all be thankful for. I do not even know where to begin

to count the many blessings I have experienced since joining the Athens Drive family just over two years ago! I am so very thankful to be able to share time with such awesome students, caring staff, and loving and committed parents! We do consider “your” children to be “our” children, and I thank you for giving all of us here at Athens Drive the honor to teach, inspire, and love your student! As I celebrate Thanksgiving with my family, I will be thinking about my extended Athens Drive family and hoping each of you has a peaceful and enjoyable holiday! If you are traveling, please be safe. Happy Thanksgiving, Go JAGS, and please take care!