

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, emailed and texted to our school families, and e-mailed to the Athens Drive PTSA email group.

We had a fantastic Open House last night! I would like to thank our amazing PTSA for their support of our staff, students, and school—we couldn't have done it without their help! I would also like to thank the students who came out to meet, greet, and share information about all aspects of The Drive to prospective families—they were incredible! We had a great turn-out, and the feedback was very positive. I am very thankful for the wonderful school family we have and I thank you all for your willingness to share the positive aspects of the teaching and learning happening each day at Athens Drive!

The Athens Drive Theatre Department is proud to present The Greek Mythology *Olympiaganza* tonight, Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, and tomorrow, Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Athens Drive Magnet High School Auditorium. This is a great show for all ages and I look forward to seeing our talented students perform tonight! Tickets will be sold at the door for \$7.00.

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 21<sup>st</sup>, is an Early Release for students. Students will be released early from school on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> is a student Holiday, and there is no school for students from Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Classes begin the regular time on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

I am proud that our Marching Band and Dance Team will be performing in the Raleigh Christmas Parade tomorrow, Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>! I thank those students for their dedication and hard work in representing Athens Drive so well!

We conducted a Lockdown Drill this week in partnership with the Raleigh Police Department. I was very proud of the way that our students responded to this Drill as we practice in case we ever do have to Lockdown our school. Please know that we practice many drills—fire, severe weather, lockdown—throughout the year so that we are prepared for an emergency situation. I appreciate how our students and staff take these drills serious and understand their roles and responsibilities.

The Athens Drive Health Academy will be hosting a holiday season blood drive in conjunction with Rex Hospital on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m., for students and staff. There is no substitute for human blood, and while blood is something that can be spared by donors—there is not enough to go around, especially around the holidays. Every three seconds someone is in need of blood, and one out of every ten people entering a hospital will need blood during their stay. Every day in the U.S. about 32,000 pints of blood are used for patients in need. We encourage our students to give, and students must be at least 17 years of age, in good health, and eat a good breakfast the day of the drive. Students may sign up through the QR code posted throughout the school and teacher's classrooms. Students, for their donation, will receive a snack, drink, and a t-shirt. Thank you for your support of this important effort!

On Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, our Orchestra will be performing their Fall Concert beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Auditorium, free of charge. They sounded great at the Open House last night, so please come out on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November to hear our incredible students play.

The Final Exam Schedule for the Fall Semester has been posted on the website. Our Final Exams will begin with Teacher Made Exams starting on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and State-Mandated Final Exams beginning on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Final Exam Period will end on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Please read the schedule for details regarding your student's Final Exam schedule.

Our Winter Sports have started and our student athletes are already representing Athens Drive admirably. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website ([www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs](http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs)) for game dates and times. Thank you for supporting our incredible 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](http://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs)) for school information in order 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! While there are still many threats, 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 of 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 a year 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!