

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.

How do you measure a year? As our amazing Chorus sang last night, five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes (from Rent, *Seasons of Love*). Well, what a great week (or, ten thousand eighty minutes...) we have had at The Drive! We inducted over 100 members into our National Honor Society, landed more internship and camp opportunities for our students through our Health Science Academy, held tryouts for our Winter sports, had a great group of students volunteer at Fright Night to help raise over \$5,400.00 for Duke PBMT Children's Hospital and provide over 4,400 meals for the Foodbank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, had student art work selected to be displayed at a National Convention, brought home more awards from the band competition we performed in, sent runners into the State Championships for Cross Country, selected Mr. Shane Barry as our Teacher of the Year, won our First Round Playoff game for Men's Soccer, chartered a new FFA Chapter, were treated to an outstanding Choral Concert, announced *In The Heights* as our Spring Musical, and wrapped up the First Quarter of teaching and learning in a positive manner to name just a few of the amazing things going on! Tomorrow, Saturday, November 4th, we will be representing Athens Drive at the Magnet Fair, we will have students running in the State Cross Country Championships, we will be playing Soccer at Hoggard High School in the Second Round of the State Playoffs, and our band will be performing in its final competition. We have a lot to be proud of at Athens Drive and I want to thank all of you for all of your support in allowing us to serve your (our!) students!

Please remember that Report Cards were sent home today so please be expecting your student to share them with you this afternoon. We began a new Quarter this week so let's encourage our students to take on the Second Quarter with a renewed commitment to academic excellence!

I look forward to joining other staff, students, and business partners at the Wake County Public School System Magnet Fair tomorrow morning sharing information about the outstanding school we have! In the coming weeks we will be hosting school tours and Open Houses to allow interested families to see the great things going on at Athens Drive! I appreciate your support as we work to share information about our school, Magnet Program, and school community with families interested in attending Athens Drive.

Parents, please remember that Jostens will be on campus for an Order Make-Up Day on Monday, November 6th in the Gym Lobby during lunches to take Class Ring orders. The deposit is \$60.00. Also, Senior Graduation products and Cap, Gown, and Tassel orders can be placed at this time. A \$60.00 deposit is required to place your Senior order.

On Wednesday, November 8th, we will be administering the Pre-ACT. We will be operating on a slightly different bell schedule (we will have Three Periods, then lunch, then Fourth Period) so that all Sophomores will have adequate time to finish the Pre-ACT on Wednesday.

Also on Wednesday, November 8th, we will host our Winter Sports Parent meeting in the Gym beginning at 6:30 p.m. If you have a student athlete playing a Winter Sport, we ask that you please attend this meeting to get important general information about Athens Drive sports, and then sport specific information from our coaches during individual team breakout meetings.

On Thursday, November 9th, we will be hosting our Fall Band Concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Admission is free, so please come out and enjoy the incredible music from our talented students!

Please remember that Friday, November 10th is Veterans Day and a school holiday. There will be no school for our students or staff. I hope all of us take time to thank a Veteran and reflect on the sacrifices our Veterans have made serving our country.

Parents of Seniors, it is now time for your Senior to submit their Senior Quote. Please see The Torch website (<https://athensdriveyearbook.weebly.com>) for details regarding Senior Quotes. Senior Quotes are due by Friday, November 10th.

Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual Athens Drive Mattress Fundraiser! On Saturday, November 11th, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the Athens Drive Magnet High School Cafeteria we will have this incredible mattress sale to benefit our Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Visual Arts, PTSA, JAG Club, and Theatre! Information can be found at [Facebook.com/CFSRaleigh/Events](https://www.facebook.com/CFSRaleigh/Events). Thank you for your support.

Our Band has started its annual Fruit/Nut Fundraiser. All orders are due by Monday, November 13th and all orders can be picked up from the Band Hallway the afternoon of Friday, December 8th. Please ask any Band student if you want to place an order. Thank you for your support of our award-winning band!

Please remember that Yearbooks are on sale now for the 2017 – 2018 school year. The Torch is a full-color yearbook production that covers all the events that take place at The Drive throughout the year. Please go the Yearbook website (<https://athensdriveyearbook.weebly.com>) for details and to purchase your yearbook.

Please remember that we have our final regular season football game tonight at home against Riverside High School. We are celebrating Senior night for the football team, cheerleaders, and the band. Tailgating will start at 5:30 p.m. and Ty's All Natural Food Truck will be here. The Senior football players and cheerleaders will be recognized before the game beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the Senior band members will be honored at the half. In addition to the Senior night festivities at halftime we will be honoring Jennifer Chang, the 4-time women's golf State Champion. Winter sports begin competition soon, 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.

Those are all of 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 have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the extra hour of time we get Saturday evening. Go JAGS and please take care.