

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>).

We had a fantastic Magnet 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 and their families who came out to meet, greet, and share information about all aspects of The Drive to prospective families—they were incredible! The feedback was very positive, and I am very thankful for the wonderful school family we have! I thank you all for your willingness to share the positive aspects of the teaching and learning happening each day at Athens Drive!

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: 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!

The Final Exam Schedule for the Fall Semester has been posted on the website. Our Final Exams will begin on Friday, January 11th. The Final Exam Period will end on Thursday, January 17th. Please read the schedule for details regarding your student's Final Exam schedule. Please know that we will be working with our students as the Final Exam Period gets closer in order to ensure that each student knows where and when each of their Final Exams are.

Congratulations to the Athens Drive Choral Department for moving on to the Semi-Finals of the WRAL Christmas Song Competition! Stay tuned early next week for details on how to support the Choral Department by voting for our song, "A Very Pentatonic Christmas" on WRALFM.COM. You can also support the Choral Department by stopping by the Capitol Building at noon on Friday, December 7th and hearing them sing!

Our Band is continuing to represent us in outstanding ways this Holiday season. They will be marching in the Apex Christmas Parade tomorrow, Saturday, December 1st, and then next Saturday, December 8th, in the Cary Christmas Parade. I appreciate their incredible marching and sound!

On Wednesday, December 5th, we will be inducting new members into the National Technical Honor Society. I look forward to recognizing this achievement with our students!

Seniors and families of Seniors, please remember that on Thursday, December 6th, Jostens will be back on campus to take **FINAL** Orders for Graduation Cap, Gown, Tassel, and other Senior products. A deposit of \$60.00 is required to finalize each Seniors' order. Please help us ensure that all our Seniors take care of these orders during their final return to Athens Drive!

The Official Athens Drive Senior Class Shirts will go on sale Monday, December 3rd through Friday, December 21st. Order forms can be found on the school's website by going to the Senior Information page, or they can be picked up in the Main Office. All order forms and money are due to Mr. Remaley in Room 2618 by Friday, December 21st.

The Athens Drive Magnet High School Senior Class have begun taking nominations for the 2019 Gradman "Suite Life of Gradman." Nominations can be made in the hallway connecting the 2600 Hallway and the 2800 Hallway. What is Gradman? It is essentially a "talent show" performed by 12 Senior gentlemen representing categories like Mr. Best All-Around, Mr. Cute, Mr. Athletic, and more! Ladies can also sign up to be judges of the event, so stop by the 2600/2800 Hallway and nominate our Seniors! 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).

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 is now open 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).

On Thursday, December 6th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria, there is a mandatory Parent/Player Men's Lacrosse Team meeting. This meeting is for all our male student athletes who are interested in playing Lacrosse in the Spring.

Thanks to everyone who made our Band's fruit and nut fundraiser a success! Orders will arrive on Friday, December 7th and can be picked up after school from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the Band Hallway.

Parents, if any of our students are interested in becoming a Teacher, they want to come and meet the N.C. State University Teaching Fellow Coordinator, Crystal Espey, of the N.C. State University Teaching Fellows Program, to learn more about the Teaching Fellows Scholarship. Students can earn up to \$33,000 for college if they want to be a Teacher. Ms. Espey will be on campus on Tuesday, December 11th, from 2:30 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. in the Library.

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>). On Wednesday, December 5th, Fayetteville State University will be on campus during both "A" Lunch and "B" Lunch.

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 our efforts 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.

Our Winter Sports are going well, and our student athletes are already representing Athens Drive admirably. Please check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) for game dates and times. Thank you for supporting our incredible student athletes!

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 all have a wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.