

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>).

## **NEW OR UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**WORKDAY ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS:** Please remember that Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> is a Workday and there is no school for students. The first day of school next week will begin at 7:25 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**FREE-AND-REDUCED-PRICE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH STATUS:** If your student receives free or reduced-price breakfast/lunch, please remember that beginning October 8<sup>th</sup>, all students who have not re-enrolled will need to pay full-price for meals. If you still need to renew your application, please use this [link](#) to apply. Paper copies are also available in the Cafeteria and Main Office.

**INTERIMS:** Please remember that Interims went home this week with our students. If a student is concerned about their grade(s) to date, please know that we still have half-a-quarter left to focus on bringing that grade(s) up! Please remember that PowerSchool is a great way to continue to monitor your student's academic achievement throughout the year. Please also remember that the First Quarter ends on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, and Report Cards will be sent home on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**BAND COMPETITION:** I want to wish our Band well as they travel to Mount Pleasant High School and Hickory Ridge High School in Charlotte, tomorrow, Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> for Band Competition! They have worked hard on their show and always represent The Drive with class and high-quality musicianship! If you are planning ahead, next Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Marching Band will be competing at Midway High School near Benson, and on October 12<sup>th</sup>, they will be traveling to Jacksonville to perform at White Oak High School.

**THE GOODNIGHT SCHOLARSHIP:** The Goodnight Scholarship is a premier scholarship program valued at \$20,500 per year for outstanding students from North Carolina high schools and community colleges majoring in STEM and education disciplines. An informational Meetings for the Goodnight Scholars Programs will be hosted at Athens Drive Magnet High School on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, during "B" Lunch in the Library Reference Area. If your student is interested in this Scholarship, please be sure he/she attends this session.

**COLLEGES VISITING ATHENS DRIVE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL:** Please know that we continue to have representatives from universities meeting with our students during the school day. University representatives are normally 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. Hope in Student Services (919-233-4050 ext. 24893) or visit the Student Services website (<http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com>). On Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, a UNC-Charlotte representative will be at Athens Drive Magnet High School to meet with students. The representative will be located in the Attendance Office Lobby during both lunches.

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION:** Columbia University offers a comprehensive array of academic programs, including three undergraduate schools, thirteen graduate and professional schools, a world-renowned medical center, four affiliated colleges and seminaries, twenty-six libraries, and nearly two hundred research centers and institutes. An information session for Columbia University will be held at the Athens Drive Magnet High School Auditorium on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Come learn about academics and the Core Curriculum, undergraduate research, student life, housing, internships and career planning, financial aid, and the admissions process. You will have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of our regional admissions officer. Please click [HERE](#) to register for this event.

**HOMECOMING:** Homecoming is coming soon! Our Homecoming Football game will be on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> versus Green Hope High School. Seniors were able to nominate their fellow classmates for the Homecoming Court all this week and we will vote for the Court in Drive Time Class on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Those Seniors selected will have a brief meeting after school with Mr. Remaley next Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss details, protocol and expectations. With Homecoming comes a Pep Rally for the whole school in Jaguar Stadium on October 11<sup>th</sup> at the end of the school day! We will recognize all the Fall Sports Teams, have performances from the cheerleaders and dance teams, and celebrate the spirit of Athens! If your student is interested in auditioning to be the host or wants to sing the National Anthem at the Homecoming Pep Rally, open auditions from any grade level are going to be held next Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, immediately after school in Jaguar Stadium! Our Homecoming's Theme this year is "Disney at the Drive." Each grade level chose a Disney movie to represent and the Freshmen are "The Jungle Book;" Sophomores are "Finding Nemo;" Juniors are "Up!;" and Seniors are "Avengers: Endgame." Each Class has designed shirts for Spirit Week and they will go on sale Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> in various places around the school, so tell your students to listen for the announcements each day for where and when! Homecoming Spirit Days during the week are: Marvel Monday (wear patriotic stuff or your favorite Marvel shirt!); Tourist Tuesday (dress like a tourist!); Wonderful Wednesday (No School! Teacher Workday!); Team Thursday (wear Class spirit shirts or dress like your class movie theme); and Spirit Friday (orange and blue!)! Thank you for your support in having a great Homecoming Week!

**MELBOURNE ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE:** I just wanted to remind everybody that the Melbourne Road over I-440 bridge closure project is planned to begin on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, with a duration of nearly a year (351 days). Beginning next week, they will demolish the bridge and that access point to Athens Drive Magnet High School will be closed. If you or your student takes this route to/from school, please be sure you adjust your commute to accommodate this closure.

**ATHLETICS:** It is hard to believe that it is almost October and our athletic teams are moving deep into Conference Play and gearing up for playoff runs! Please remember that we have a home Football Game tonight versus Hillside High School. For the most up-to-date schedule information, please check the Athens Drive Athletics website (<http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs>) to stay aware of all game dates, game times, and any changes to our Athletic competitions. I enjoy the opportunity to see our students shine on the court, course, and field!

**THANK YOU!:** Those are all the announcements for this week. Please continue to check the Athens Drive website ([www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs](http://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs)) for general information and to help you stay informed. As always, I thank you for your incredible support of our school, and I hope each of you enjoys a wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.

## **REMINDER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKLY MESSAGES:**

**MAKE-UP DAY OF SCHOOL CHANGED:** Please know that WCPSS announced this week that we are changing one of the Make-Up Days for the two days of school we lost due to the impact of Hurricane Dorian. The Make-Up Day for Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> is going to now be held on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a change from the originally announced Make-Up Day of Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Thus, Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> is now a school day for students and Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> is not a school day for students. Thank you for your attention to this change in our instructional calendar.

**PICTURE DAY:** We had Picture Day on campus for all Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors. Our Seniors had their Senior Portraits completed over the summer, and if your Senior did not have their Senior Portrait done, we will have a Make-Up Senior Portrait Day on campus on Wednesday and Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to order pictures of your student but did not submit any forms or payments, you can still order pictures on-line at <https://www.strawbridge.net/>.

**STUDENT SERVICES WEBSITE:** Please visit the [Student Services Website](#) to get information about upcoming events, scholarship opportunities, enrichment opportunities in the community, etc. You can also sign-

up for the Student Services Remind message to get up-to-date information for each Class. Sign-up information is located outside of the Student Services office or on the Student Services website.

**AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITY BUSES:** Our Afterschool Activity Buses begin their runs on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Please understand the following about our Activity Buses: Only students involved in a supervised activity after school are allowed to ride the Activity Bus (e.g., Tutoring, Clubs, Athletics, Rehearsals, Arts, etc.); students will need an Activity Bus Pass to get on an Activity Bus signed by the staff member who was supervising them; the Activity Buses stop only at the prescribed stops on their routes; the Activity Buses will pick up students in the Bus Loop—the same area where students arrive and depart by bus every day; and students need to be at the Bus Loop no later than 4:55 p.m. as the Activity Buses will leave at 5:00 p.m. Activity Bus Routes will be posted in the Main Office, Student Services Office, and posted on our website.

**SENIOR CLASS REMIND SIGN-UP:** Senior parents, Mr. Remaley is our Senior Advisor and he does an outstanding job communicating with our Seniors and Senior families. Please know that now is the time to join Mr. Remaley's Senior Text Message group! You can send the text message: @theremaley to the number 81010 (or you can use 919-800-0977) to sign up today! This is the BEST way to stay current with Senior information, so you don't miss a thing!

**STUDENTS MUST HAVE A VALID PARKING PASS TO PARK ON CAMPUS:** I would like to ask all students and parents to help us ensure that only those students who have a valid Parking Pass park on campus. We have several students already who are parking on campus who do not have a valid Parking Pass. Please understand that any student who parks on campus must have a Parking Pass and park only in their assigned space. It is important for us to know who is parking in each space and have parent permission for students to drive and park on campus. Please also understand that Athens does not retain any of the money collected for the Parking Passes—the money collected for Parking Passes goes directly to Wake County Public School System and pays for our Security Officer on Campus who patrols the outside of the school. If a Junior or Senior want to purchase a Parking Pass, they can still purchase one. Students interested in securing a Parking pass for the 2019 – 2020 school year should carefully read and follow the guidelines on the application. To complete the Parking Pass Application process, please complete the on-line parking registration. Then, please print & complete the two-page paper application. Please note Parent's signature must be notarized on the second page of the application. Please complete the On-Line Payment to pay for the Parking pass. You will then need to print your On-Line Receipt to include with your application. Please make a clear photocopy of your valid North Carolina Driver's License (permanent photo—a permit temporary license will not be accepted) and vehicle registration(s). Finally, please remember that students must have cleared all fees or fines they have, as a Parking Tag will not be issued if the student has any outstanding fees or fines owed.

**STUDENTS LEAVING CAMPUS FOR LUNCH:** As we discussed in our Class Meetings, Juniors and Seniors who have an approved Off-Campus Lunch Pass are the only students who may leave campus for lunch. A Junior or Senior student cannot leave campus during lunch without having an authorized Off-Campus Lunch Pass. Freshmen and Sophomores are NEVER allowed to leave campus during the school day, unless on an approved school trip. If a Junior or Senior would like to purchase a Lunch Pass (the cost is \$5.00 for the year), please print and complete the one-page paper application. Please note that the parent's signature must be notarized on the application. Please complete the On-Line Payment to pay for the Off-Campus Lunch pass. You will then need to print your On-Line Receipt to include with your application. Finally, please remember that students must have cleared all fees or fines they have, as an Off-Campus Lunch pass will not be issued if the student has any outstanding fees or fines owed.

**VOLUNTEERING AT ATHENS DRIVE:** Please remember that if you would like to volunteer at Athens Drive, or in any Wake County Public School System school, you must register or reactivate prior to helping with any tutoring, office support, PTSA, sports, band, or club activity this school year. You can register to Volunteer at a computer in the Library during school hours. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe school climate conducive to learning.

**GRADUATION:** I am fired up to announce that our Graduation date and time for our Class of 2020 has been finalized! Our Seniors will be Graduating on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Reynolds Coliseum! Please note the change in venue for this year—the Class of 2020 will be Graduating at Reynolds Coliseum instead of the Raleigh Convention Center. Please be sure to save this date and time to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2020! In addition, Seniors need to also be sure they attend the mandatory Graduation Rehearsal on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Reynolds Coliseum.

**ATHENS DRIVE SPIRIT WEAR:** JAG Junction, the store located in the Gym Lobby where we sell Jaguar shirts and other items, will be open every Wednesday and Thursday, during both “A” and “B” lunches. If your student wants any Jaguar attire, this is a great opportunity for him/her to purchase it. Thank you!

**ATHLETICS—PAWS AND BRICKS:** Our Athletic Booster Club, the JAG Club, will be selling customized bricks and paws at the entrance to JAG Stadium again this year. If you are interested in purchasing one for your student athlete, please visit this link ([Paws and Bricks](#)). If you have questions, contact Diane Huggins ([dianeshuggins@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeshuggins@yahoo.com)).

**ATHLETICS—JAG CLUB:** Are you interested in helping with the JAG Club this year? Please email Lori Airee ([my6blessings@yahoo.com](mailto:my6blessings@yahoo.com)) for more information on how to become involved.

**ATHLETICS—SPORTS PASSES:** Sports passes are now available for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Sports passes are good for admission to all Athens Drive Athletics home events, except for Endowment Games and Playoff Games. You can purchase Sports passes for the coming year at this link (<https://www.athensdrivejagclub.org/membership/>).