

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 and e-mailed to the Athens Drive PTSA email group.

Next week is Homecoming Week at The Drive! Our 2017 Homecoming theme is ***Athens Got Game***. Students are encouraged to participate in Spirit Days by dressing up each day: Monday is Camo Day (Risk); Tuesday is Workout (Clothes) Day (Twister); Wednesday is Class Color Day (Seniors: Black; Juniors: Red; Sophomores: White; and Freshmen: Gray) (Battleship); Thursday is Nerd Day (Cranium); and Friday is Orange and Blue Day (Sorry). The Student Government is selling Homecoming T-shirts for \$6.00. These shirts can be purchased from our Student Government Advisors, Mr. Remaley and Mr. Maxwell, in Rooms 2620 and 2618. A Homecoming Pep Rally will be held on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> for the whole school in Jaguar Stadium. During our Pep Rally we will honor all of our Fall Sports teams, the band, cheerleaders, dance and step teams, and announce our Homecoming King. A Homecoming Tailgate will precede the football game—come early to grab some dinner and join current and former Athens students as we prepare for the game against Jordan High School! All Alumni in attendance will receive an Alumni button to wear during the game. At halftime of the game, the 2017 Homecoming Court will be announced, the Queen will be crowned, and the Marching Band will perform a halftime show. Immediately following the game, the Sophomore Class is sponsoring a Homecoming Dance in the Cafeteria. Tickets are \$5.00 and need to be purchased during lunch throughout Spirit Week—tickets will not be sold at the door. Our Homecoming dance will end at 11:30 p.m. We are looking forward to an exciting week at The Drive!

Parents of Seniors, I am excited to remind you that on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be meeting with all Seniors during Drive Time to share information regarding Cap and Gown orders, ordering Graduation announcements, ordering souvenir tassels, etc. Please be sure to be talking with your Senior about these orders as the first day for placing Graduation orders will be on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, during SMART Lunch. We continue to look forward to Graduation on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon!

Senior parents, please remember that we continue to have College Admission representatives come to Athens to meet with students. Next week the following Colleges will be present to meet with students: Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, UNC-Charlotte at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, East Carolina University at 10:30 a.m.; and on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, Shaw University at 2:30 p.m. Students can visit the Student Services office for further details.

Our Fall Student Services Parent Session, entitled *Through High School and Beyond: How to Survive and Thrive*, will be held on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. The purpose of this Parent Session is to provide our school families with the information and tools necessary to assist our students' transition through high school and beyond. Topics that will be discussed include Financial Aid, NCAA Requirements, Military recruiting, and College Admission Requirements. We hope to see you here!

I am proud of two service projects that our students have been involved in. First, our Blood Drive registered 78 people and had 53 pints of blood donated. This helped save the lives of up to 159 area patients! Then, a big thank you for all of our students, staff, and families who have contributed to our Food Drive. As of our last collection, we had collected 415 pounds of food for both our Backpack Buddies program and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. I am proud of our school family's willingness to give back and make a positive difference in the lives of others!

I want to ensure that all of our students who qualify for Free and Reduced Price meals keep those benefits for this year. If your family qualifies and you have not completed an application for the 2017 – 2018 school year, we ask that you complete an application now. In order to maintain those benefits a new application must be submitted. The renewal cut off day for applications is next Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Beginning October 9<sup>th</sup>, any student without an approved application for the 2017 – 2018 school year will be expected to pay full price for breakfast and lunch. To complete the application, families can apply online to qualify for free and reduced meals by going to <https://www.wcpss.net/meals> where there is information about the Free and Reduced Price meals program, frequently asked questions, and the new online application. Families may also receive a hard-

copy of the application in our Front Office, Students Services Office, and Cafeteria. Thank you for your support in taking care of this requirement.

WCPSS traditional calendar families, including Athens Drive families, will soon be able to use the bus tracking app *Here Comes the Bus*. *Here Comes the Bus* translates GPS data into an easy to use, customizable map that works on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. WCPSS will be communicating information to High School families on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. After that communication, families will be directed to sign up at <https://herecomesthebus.com/getting-started/> and will be provided the district code. I hope this new app will be beneficial for the families of our students who have bus transportation.

Come eat some delicious BBQ and fried chicken at the Athens Drive Band Fall BBQ on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The BBQ will be sold at a new location this year, at the Masonic Lodge on Tryon Road, across from Swift Creek Elementary. The price is \$9.00 per plate and includes BBQ pork & fried chicken, slaw, baked beans, and hushpuppies (utensils are supplied). For an additional \$1.00 you can purchase Dessert. Please be sure to bring exact cash. Plates will be available for Lunch pick up. Thank you for your support!

The Wake County Public School System offers a Career to College Promise where students can start working toward their College and Career Goals while in High School for free. There will be a Career to College Promise information meeting on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Athens Drive Magnet High School Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. for students and parents that are interested in taking College Courses while at Athens Drive Magnet High School.

North Wake College and Career Academy (NWCCA) is an innovative Early College High School. The school is a partnership between Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) and Wake Tech Community College (WTCC). Students can complete their High School Diploma taking honors and AP level courses and earn business education credentials through WCPSS Career and Technical Education (CTE). Students can also earn a WTCC certificate in one of five program areas (Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Emergency Medical Science, Hospitality Management, and IT-Tech Support) and are eligible to enroll in additional college level courses through WTCC to earn free, transferable college credits while still in High School. For more information about NWCCA, please feel free to visit with their representatives on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Athens Drive Magnet High School Library, at 9:00 a.m.

Parents, please remember that First Quarter Interims came home this week. Thank you for your support in monitoring your student's academic progress. Please also remember that the First Quarter ends on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and Report Cards will be sent home on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our Fall athletic season is ending in the coming weeks and Senior Nights, Conference Tournaments, and State Playoffs will begin soon. Please check the Athens Drive website (<http://www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs>) for game dates and times and come out and support our Student Athletes for their last remaining games, Senior Nights, and playoff competition!

Those are all of the announcements for this week. I hope you all enjoy the awesome weather and have a wonderful weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.