

School History

1917

Stone Primary School opens on Stone Avenue as Greenville's first school to exclusively serve elementary age students.

1923

A new building is constructed on Wilton Street, three blocks north of the original campus.

1995

Stone Elementary is renamed Stone Academy, and becomes an arts magnet school. That same year, the school is awarded a \$10,000 *Target 2000 Grant* to implement the South Carolina Framework for the Arts Curriculum Standards. Similar proposals are funded in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

1996

Stone Academy is designated an ABC (Arts in the Basic Curriculum) Advancement Site by the South Carolina Arts Commission and awarded \$6,000 to support the arts-integrated curriculum.

1997

Stone Academy is recognized by the South Carolina State Department of Education's South Carolina Writing Network as having an exemplary writing program. This award is received for three consecutive years.

2000

The Greenville County School District constructs a "new" Stone Academy and renovates the original 1923 school building on Wilton Street. Students begin the 2001-2002 school year in the new building.

2004

Stone Academy playground comes alive through a collaboration with the City of Greenville and a grant from *KABOOM*. \$70,000 in new equipment and landscape improvements make hundreds of Stone students jump for joy. The kindergarten play area is also doubled in size with landscaping, grading, and age appropriate equipment.

2006

Stone Academy's inner courtyard garden becomes a fully functioning Outdoor Classroom for the school. Donations from the community make this goal a reality.

2009

The Greenville County School District purchases .75 acres adjacent to the school.

2010

Stone is awarded the **2010 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award**. Stone Academy parents and volunteers create a new play space with the .75 acres purchased. Students now enjoy a track and multipurpose field.

2011

Stone Academy is named **Palmetto's Finest finalist**.

2015

Stone Academy receives a federal grant from Safe Routes to School. SRTS brings together parents, schools, and community leaders to encourage students to walk and bike to school. SRTS activities and resources focus on improving walking and biking conditions around schools while building healthy habits and safety skills.

What Makes Stone Special?

"Stone is special because kids work together to make big discoveries." *Kathryn, Kindergarten*

"Stone is special because the people who work here are always so welcoming and kind." *Jenna, 4th grade*

"At Stone we have games. We paint, we have music, we have dance. I really really love Stone!" *Tyquez, 2nd grade*

"Stone is special because the teachers teach in a fun way that makes the kids want to learn." *Natalie, 4th grade*

"Stone is like my second home. It is so, so, so close to my heart." *Erin, 4th grade*

"Stone Academy is home away from home." *Flannery Kate, Kindergarten*



STONE
ACADEMY
OF COMMUNICATION ARTS

Annual Report 2016–2017

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Stone Academy's mission is to prepare all students for lifelong learning by actively engaging students in a comprehensive, sequential, academic program interwoven with the arts and enriched with creative problem solving experiences appropriate for all learning styles.

This annual report is prepared by the School Improvement Council to inform parents of the school's progress in achieving goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan of Stone Academy.

2016–2017 Snapshot

Stone maintained for the seventeenth year its status as an ABC (Arts in the Basic Curriculum) model school site and received funds to support several artists-in-residence. The school-wide theme was “New Beginnings” to mark the first year with our new principal. The annual school-wide production featured this theme and showcased music, dance, drama, and strings. An audience of more than 2,000 people watched the performance at Furman University’s McAlister Auditorium. Second grade students performed the American Heritage program in November, third grade students did a spring showcase on South Carolina History, and first grade will perform their annual Peter Rabbit program in May.

Many students successfully auditioned for the various performing groups at school, with 56 in Stone Singers, 15 in Dance Ensemble, 20 in Play Production, and 63 students in strings. Jumpstart News continued as a daily, live student-produced TV program. Forty-seven fourth and fifth graders served on five crews during the school year.

Encore enrichment classes before and after school offered continued learning experiences in art, music (percussion & guitar), dance, drama, robotics, engineering, publishing and writing. The Stone Literary and Art Magazine (SLAM) was published by an Encore class.

Stone students continue to perform academically higher than the district average in all areas.

In the 2016-2017 school year, the School Improvement Council continued to support parent involvement programs, including the Watch D.O.G.S. program and workshops to inform parents of the school’s initiatives in arts and technology, transition to middle school, and how to raise mentally healthy children. Members of SIC sought professional advice (pro bono) from architects and engineers regarding the possibilities for renovating our basement into usable meeting and studio space. SIC hopes to keep this project moving forward by communicating our needs to stakeholders and School Board representatives.

Arts integration continued to be a school-wide goal. Many of our teachers chose to participate in either the Peace Center’s Summer Institute or the Metropolitan Arts Council’s SmartARTs program over the summer. Both provide teachers with a week-long intensive training in the Arts led by renowned artists-in-residence.

School Improvement Council 2016–2017

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School Portfolio Goals

A plan for continuous school improvement has been in place for over 10 years. At its inception, four data-driven goals were identified and became the focus of our Vision Planning Committees. The four Vision Planning Committees annually assess the plans, the implementation, the processes and progress to determine what needs to improve and how to make those improvements. When test data is available, each committee reevaluates their plan for appropriateness and effectiveness.

Stone’s School Improvement Council’s focus was aligned with our data-driven goals and all stakeholders worked towards the same end. At each SIC meeting, members shared and discussed minutes from the four Vision Planning committees. Through hard work and commitment, the SIC, in conjunction with the Vision Planning committees, made the following noteworthy achievements:

- Professional Development focused on several areas – Personalized Learning, Arts Integration, data analysis, inclusive practices, writing and math. Teachers participated in weekly professional development opportunities focusing on differentiation and personalized learning.
- Student access to technology increased significantly this year. Students in grades 1-5 have 1:1 access to a Chromebook. All Kindergarten classrooms are equipped with N-Computing stations. Additionally, students have access to class sets of iPads, laptop carts, 16 mini iPads in the library, and virtual field trip equipment.
- Parent Lunch and Learns were offered throughout the school year to keep parents informed and integrated into technology use at Stone Academy. Parents interacted with the Google Suite, as well as various instructional apps and tools. Internet safety presentations were offered to both parents and students.

Stone Academy School-wide Goals

- Goal 1:** Improve the reading and writing achievement of all students across all grade levels and demographic groups.
- Goal 2:** Improve the math achievement of all students across all grade levels and demographic groups.
- Goal 3:** Improve technology skills of students, teachers, and parents for increased student achievement, communication, and life-long technology skills.
- Goal 4:** Improve communication, parent involvement and parent understanding to increase student achievement.