

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.

2017

Stone Academy began a yearlong Centennial Celebration "In 100 years, there is only one you!"

What Makes Stone Special?

"Stone administrators and teachers create an environment where all children receive the love, encouragement and support they need to succeed. It's a special place that will have a lasting impact on students."
Robin and Weston Blackwood, parents

"Stone is special because Mrs. Vaughn is the best principal ever, and because Mrs. Bolt and all the teachers are great!" **Charlotte Fretwell, kindergartner**

"As a parent of a kindergartener, I had a lot of apprehension about sending my daughter to school. Stone Academy is so far from what I thought 'school' would be. Stone, from its principal and amazing teachers, to the custodial personnel and aftercare workers, seems much more like a giant family than it does an institution. There is a real culture of teamwork and building relationships that I believe students and faculty remember long after they leave this place. Stone truly is special because of the people who enter its doors every day--intent on training and equipping the next generation to succeed in every aspect of their lives."
Allen Fretwell, parent



STONE
ACADEMY
OF COMMUNICATION ARTS

Annual Report 2017–2018

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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.

2017–2018 Snapshot

Stone Academy turned 100 years old this year and was celebrated with a school wide theme of “In 100 Years There is only One you.” 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. Stone maintained for the eighteenth year its status as an ABC (Arts in the Basic Curriculum) model school site and received funds to support several artists-in-residence. Some of the highlights of the year include the fifth grade art residency with mural artists Bannan-Blasko. Second grade students visited City Hall during their yearlong PBL on community and presented City Council with ideas for a City flag, fifth grade student will host their annual wax museum of historical figures and first grade will perform their annual Peter Rabbit Opera in May.

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

Many students successfully auditioned for the various performing groups at school, with 61 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. Fifty-six 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 parents also organized a running club that met each Tuesday morning before school at the school track. Any student 2nd-5th grade was invited to attend

In the 2017-2018 school year, the School Improvement Council continued to support parent involvement programs, including the Watch D.O.G.S. program, lunch and learns and Stone’s PTA. The SIC specifically worked with PTA to organize #hugourschool to show support and love for Stone

Academy. The SIC met monthly to review strategies and their progress towards the school’s strategic plan. The Members of SIC sought professional advice from technology experts in their field on futures in the industry, as well as (pro bono) advice from law enforcement and security professionals regarding school safety.

Arts integration continues to be the method we use to teach all children grades Kindergarten- 5th grade. Many of our teachers chose to participate in either the Peace Center’s Summer Institute or the Metropolitan Arts Council’s Smart ARTs program over the summer. Both provide teachers with a week-long intensive training in the Arts led by renowned artists-in-residence. In the 2017-2018 school year, Stone was the recipient of two Metropolitan Arts Council grants to support the strings program and arts classes at Stone.

School Improvement Council 2017–2018

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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.