

## 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 Southern Greens, Landscape Architect Dabney Peebles, along with grants from Lowe's and Greenville Federal Credit Union, make this goal a reality.
- 2009** The Greenville County School District purchased .75 acres adjacent to the school. .
- 2010** In March, the School Improvement Council (SIC) of Stone was awarded the 2010 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award. The award was created to recognize the significant contributions made to public education by the more than 15,000 SIC members who volunteer in every public school in the state. Stone Academy parents and volunteers created a new play space with the .75 acres purchased. Students now enjoy a track and multipurpose field.
- 2011** Stone Academy named Palmetto's Finest finalist.
- 2013** Stone Academy received Palmetto Gold for overall achievement.

## What Makes Stone Special?

*I think that the family atmosphere at Stone makes it special. I feel that everyone sees everyone as family! We not only care about our students, but each other as well.*

~Angela Smith, Teacher

**Stone is special because we are learning new things every day.**  
~Caleb Gardner, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

*Stone is special because it is community that cares for and about each other. You see all aspects of this from teachers, staff, students and parents.*  
~Susan McLarty, Parent

**Stone Academy is a warm, supportive, but hard-working environment. Faculty members collaborate and challenge each other to become better educators. As a teacher at Stone Academy I have the privilege to help my students find their passion as individual artists as well as grow academically.**

~Kristy Peace, Teacher

*Stone is special because of the network of support that it provides for each student. Children model the behavior they see around them- and Stone helps to ensure that each student has plenty of strong, positive role models. At the Frazee Center, we really appreciate how the faculty and staff at Stone work to unite each student's family, teachers, mentors, Frazee staff, and others to help inspire positive growth in each child.*

~Brittani Kronquist, Frazee Mentor

**Stone is special because we have art class each week.**  
~Lilly Jo Wise, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

*Stone is special because of the faculty. Everyone is supportive and we work together as a family.*

~Ginger Gilbert, Teacher

**2010 Dick and Tunky Riley  
School Improvement Award Winner**



## Annual Report 2013 - 2014 Stone Academy of Communication Arts

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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

*The 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.*

# 2013 – 2014 Snapshot

Stone Academy met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). We met 17 of the 17 standards set by the U.S. Department of Education in the “No Child Left Behind Act,” giving us the distinction of meeting AYP. Adequate Yearly Progress focuses on the percentage of students scoring only at the highest levels—*Met and Exemplary*, and compares the performance of subgroups within the school. Stone also received an *Excellent* Annual School Report Card and a *Good* growth rating.

Stone maintained for the sixteenth 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 instructional theme was “Find Your Passion.” The annual school-wide production featured this theme and showcased music, dance, drama, and art. An audience of more than 2,000 people watched the performance at Furman University’s McAlister Auditorium. Second grade students performed the American History Timeline in the fall, and third grade students did a spring showcase on South Carolina History.

Many students successfully auditioned for the various performing groups at school, with 68 in Stone Singers, 16 in Dance Ensemble, 24 in Play Production, and 65 students in strings. Jumpstart News continued as a daily, live student-produced TV program. Five crews of 15 members of fourth and fifth graders served during the school year.

Encore enrichment classes before and after school offered continued learning experiences in art, music, dance, drama, and writing.

Friday clubs were offered to fourth and fifth grade students and featured drama, dance, literature, physical activities, artistic creation, and music.

In the 2013-2014 school year, the School Improvement Council continued to support parent involvement programs, including the Watch D.O.G.S. program and parent workshops to inform parents of the new Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and math. To learn more about legislative issues concerning education, SIC met with key individuals who shared upcoming proposals and how educators and parents can contact their representatives to learn more or express their opinion. SIC continued to collaborate with the City of Greenville to have open communications on the traffic flow and jointly used Croft Park.

Arts integration continued to be a school-wide goal. To date, twenty-nine teachers have participated in the IDEA program. IDEA, Intensive Development in Education through the Arts, is a professional development program offered during the summer and after school with intense training on integrating the arts across the curriculum.

## School Improvement Council 2013–2014

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Charlotte Stilwell  
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Alice Littlejohn  
Nell Stewart  
Matt Reeves  
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Bryan Howell  
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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. In May 2013, each committee presented the strategy and action plan to be implemented in the 2013 – 2014 school year. 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 two areas – Balanced Literacy and Common Core State Standards instruction. Dianne Wesselhoff, a Fountas and Pinnell trainer, worked with teachers over the summer as well as throughout the school year to help deepen our understanding of the components of Balanced Literacy, particularly Guided Reading. Our Common Core professional development focused on familiarization with the new standards and the integration of the arts into those standards.
- A Night of the Arts was offered in January to provide parents with more information about how Common Core and the Arts work hand-in-hand. This was followed up with a Day of the Arts, where parents were invited to visit classrooms and view students participating in lessons.
- Parents sessions on Common Core were held in January and February 2014 as a way of informing parents about the new Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and math.
- Stone was asked to host the annual ABC site visit in March. Over 100 representatives from across the state were in attendance. In addition to their break-out sessions, guests were offered a tours, classroom visits, and treated to several performances by Stone 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 improve student achievement.