

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

Stone was awarded the **2010 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award**.

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.

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 of the community feeling that surrounds you when you walk through the doors of the school. It is evident that teachers and students care for each other and that parents are welcomed as partners in their children's education."

-Anna Hall, Parent and Asst. Professor of Early Childhood Education, Clemson University

"The faculty at Stone showcases an elite team that works together to create amazing opportunities for their students. You can see their reflection in the project-covered hallways, program quality, and students' enthusiasm for their school. It's a great family-oriented school, and the faculty is committed to building those relationships."

-Jeff Holland, Percussion Encore Teacher

"What makes Stone Academy so special is that it is not just a school, it is a family. It is a place where students, educators and parents come together to create a truly unique environment for learning and personal growth. Through arts integration, students have fun learning and parents are encouraged to be an active part of that learning, in and out of the classroom. As my years at Stone soon come to an end, I know it will forever feel like home."

-Jana Heroman, PTA Co-President



Annual Report 2015–2016 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 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.

2015–2016 Snapshot

Stone Academy received its fifth consecutive Palmetto Gold Award for overall student achievement based on last spring's ACT Aspire and PASS test scores.

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 instructional theme was "Live B.I.G." B.I.G. is an acronym for Brave, Inventive and Genuine. 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 Heritage program in November, third grade students did a spring showcase on South Carolina History, and first grade performed their annual Peter Rabbit program in May.

Many students successfully auditioned for the various performing groups at school, with 60 in Stone Singers, 17 in Dance Ensemble, 23 in Play Production, and 63 students in strings. Jumpstart News continued as a daily, live student-produced TV program. Five crews of 10 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, (percussion & guitar) dance, drama, robotics, engineering, publishing and writing. The Stone Literary and Art Magazine (SLAM) was published by an Encore class.

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

In the 2015-2016 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 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 2015–2016

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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 – Arts Integration, data analysis, inclusive practices, technology, writing and math. Sandra Goff, a math consultant, worked with teachers this spring to help deepen their understanding of math and provide hands-on examples for teaching challenging concepts. Additional professional development focused on incorporating math workstations and small groups into weekly lesson plans to address the diverse learning needs of our students.
- Through a combination of funds and grants, we have increased our students' access to technology this year. We purchased 200 new Chromebook notebooks to be used by first-5th grades, 10 additional iPads for kindergarten, 16 mini iPads for the library, and the equipment for a virtual field trip lab. Over 50 virtual field trips were conducted.
- A Technology and the Arts Night was offered in April to provide parents with a hands-on opportunity to explore the technology their students use daily. Parents saw ways that each grade level integrates technology into instruction.

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.