

# 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?

"Stone Academy--where learning, laughter and love are intertwined."  
- Priscilla Solomon, Grandparent

*"Going to Stone makes me feel like I'm talented. It makes me embrace who I really am. I love Stone. All the teachers are nice, my friends are fun and the library is full of books to read."*  
- Cynthia Uhlemann, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

"Stone is a school like none other. Every student is held to a high expectation and challenged to achieve greatness. Arts Integration allows for every child to be actively engaged and they enjoy learning! I also think that Stone is special because of the community built into the school. It is warm, inviting and it feels like home."  
- Mary Margaret Carter, Student Teacher

*"Stone's teachers & staff are truly gifted in engaging & educating the students on many levels. They've created an environment that shows an appreciation for the children as individuals, building their self-esteem and setting the stage for them to prosper."*  
-Amy Uhlemann, Parent

"As well as using a variety of methods to support our students' learning needs, Stone gives every student the opportunity to explore their passions and grow in a warm, loving environment. The Stone staff works closely together to ensure the needs of all students are met."  
- Sharon Gilstrap, 2014-2015 Stone Teacher of the Year



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



## Annual Report 2014 - 2015 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.

*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.*

# 2014 – 2015 Snapshot

Stone Academy received an *Excellent* Annual School Report Card and an *Excellent* growth rating for the 2013-2014 school year. Stone also received an ESEA (federal accountability) grade of B, based on performance of subgroups of population.

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 “Be the Change You Want to See in the World.” 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 64 in Stone Singers, 17 in Dance Ensemble, 25 in Play Production, and 60 students in strings. Jumpstart News continued as a daily, live student-produced TV program. Five crews of 13 members of fourth and fifth graders served during the school year. A PTA grant for new Jumpstart studio equipment allowed for digital streaming and enhanced production features.

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 2014-2015 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 2014–2015

Alice Littlejohn  
Ann Brucoliere  
Bert Medlock  
Bonnie McClain  
Brittani Kronquist  
Brooke Howard  
Bruce Byford  
Christine Lewis  
Ed Holliday  
Jean Thomas  
Jennifer Medlock  
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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 2014, each committee presented the strategy and action plan to be implemented in the 2014 – 2015 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 – Arts Integration 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 have added a cart of iPads, Dell Latitude Notebooks, and new Promethean projectors in classrooms. In addition, we will soon be adding the equipment for a virtual field trip lab.
- A Technology and the Arts Night was offered in January to provide parents with a hands-on opportunity to explore the technology their students use daily. A live production of Jumpstart News started the evening, following by sessions on Google Treks, Green Screen, and a flipped classroom.

## 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.