

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 serving students in the existing attendance area and accepting students throughout the district by application. That same year, the school is awarded a \$10,000 *Target 2000 Grant* for 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 and grading and age appropriate equipment is installed.
- 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 purchases .75 acres of additional property adjacent to the school. A design is currently being developed to create additional play space for students.
- 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 create a new play space with the .75 acres purchased. Students now enjoy a track and multipurpose field.

What Makes Stone Special?

Stone Academy is a caring, open environment. There is a collaborative effort between students, parents and faculty. The arts are a key component of the curriculum. This sets it apart from other elementary schools. We are very pleased with the talented teachers at Stone Academy! We love it.

~Susan McLarty, Parent

Stone is so special because of all of the people in it. The teachers are so nice and everyone loves to work here. Everyone cares and loves and that makes Stone a better place.

~Evan Ackerman, 2nd Grade

I am so impressed with the parent participation at Stone. Parents are always willing to give of their time. They assist teachers and contribute greatly to the school community. Everyone works together as a team. Together we make Stone the best environment possible for students to learn and grow!

~Jennifer Medlock, PTA President

Stone Academy of Communication Arts is not just a school; it is an opportunity. When the door is opened to strangers, as it always is, they leave knowing their children are given an art filled education. They are choosing the best way for them to learn.

~Lilian Hart, 5th Grade

To most students around the county, a flower is just a flower. At Stone, a flower is a tableau that comes alive. At Stone, a flower is science: with its stamen and pistils. At Stone, a flower is part of our natural world: it must be protected and nurtured by the humans that share the world. Stone Academy offers a child an education far beyond what rests on the surface – because everything is always much more than what it seems. We just need to look a little better. At Stone, we do.

~Savita Nair-Carroll, Parent

Stone feels like home to me. All of the teachers are like a mom and dad to me. When I walk in the school, all of the teachers are smiling with joy and if I am having a bad day it will make me happy.

~Richard Walker, 5th Grade

We are proud to be a Stone Academy family! My daughter is a 3rd grader and my son started kindergarten this year and they LOVE Stone. All of the teachers are amazing and the enthusiasm they exhibit in and out of the classroom is catching. My son says that everything about his day is the best part!

~Alison Wasse, Parent

The art, dance, drama, strings and drums, they are all part of me. Every stroke I take with that fine brush, every move I make. The spotlight is shining on me. The sweet sound from the strings. The steady beat from the drums.

~Caroline Harrison, 5th Grade

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



Annual Report 2010-2011 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.

2010-2011 Snapshot

Stone Academy met Annual Year Progress (AYP). We met 17 of the 17 standards set by the Federal Department of Education in the “No Child Left Behind Act,” giving us the distinction of meeting AYP. Annual Year 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 maintained for the twelfth year its status as an ABC (Arts in the Basic Curriculum) model school site and received funds to support artists-in-residence and staff development. The school-wide instructional theme was “Oh the Places You Will Go.” The annual school-wide production was an original script that featured this theme and showcased music, dance, drama, and art. An audience of almost 2000 people watched the performance at Furman University’s McAlister Auditorium. The second grade again performed the American History Timeline pageant depicting American history from the Plymouth landing through the Civil War. The third grade did a spring pageant on South Carolina History.

Many students successfully auditioned for the various performing groups at school, with 74 in Stone Singers, 12 in Dance Ensemble, 20 in Play Production, and 33 students in strings. Jumpstart News continued as a daily, live student-produced TV program. Five crews of 16 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 twirling.

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

In the 2010-2011 school year, was a semifinalist for Palmetto’s Finest. We were honored to have the state’s only Milken Award winner, Mr. Gresham Brown. The SIC oversaw the completion of the REFRESH technology plan. We continued to support Parents as Teachers Program and held parent in-services on community services, transitioning to sixth grade, math and technology, and Love and Logic. The SIC and PTA supported annual HOG day to level new field, collaborated with City Recreation on correcting drainage issues in Croft Park and prioritized future improvements. The SIC looked into improvements in sound system in cafeteria, mentored the Sevier Middle School SIC, assisted PTA in sodding new field. We hosted Glenda Morrison-Fair, board member and Kathy Maness, executive director of PTSA to keep abreast of funding for education. Arts integration continued to be a school-wide goal. Sixteen teachers participated in the IDEA program. IDEA, Intensive Development in Education through the Arts, is a 3 year professional development program with intense training on integrating the arts across the curriculum.

Stone Academy received the Palmetto Gold Award, receiving an excellent Annual School Report Card and good improvement rating. Additionally, Stone received the Palmetto Silver Award for Closing the Achievement Gap.

School Improvement Council 2010-2011

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School Portfolio Goals

A plan for continuous school improvement, using a process developed by Dr. Victoria Bernhardt, was completed in the 2002-2003 school year. Four data-driven goals (listed below) were identified after carefully analyzing data from testing, opinion surveys and school records, as well as anecdotal information. Each goal became the focus of a Vision Planning Committee empowered to implement the strategies and action plans defined in the school portfolio. 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, 2010, each committee presented the strategy and action plan to be implemented in the 2010-2011 school year. When the test data is made 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. The minutes from each committee were also shared with all faculty and staff via e-mail. Through hard work and commitment the SIC, in conjunction with the Vision Planning committees, made the following noteworthy achievements:

- Professional Development Wednesdays focused on gender awareness and developing effective strategies for teaching boys and girls at all grade levels. The faculty has participated in a year long book study with Leonard Sax’s Why Gender Matters. Faculty members and guest speakers have presented on gender related topics throughout the year, including behavior, assessment, teaching boy writers, technology, and arts integrated strategies for boys and girls.
- Family Math and Technology Night was offered to all Stone parents and students in October 2010.
- Compass Learning, a standards-based online curriculum, had been available to all students for the past three years. The program, correlated to our state standards and aligned with MAP to provide individualized curriculum to ensure success, was highlighted in parent workshops at PTA meetings and at Family Math Night.
- Reading Initiatives, Stone Story Zone, an early morning read aloud targeting at-risk students, and Stone Story Time, a read-aloud for preschoolers of current students, were continue to be successful.
- A Parent Community Resource fair was held in March 2011 in collaboration with the Frazee Dream Center.
- Technology Wednesdays continued this year for teachers. Topics included: Google docs, Active Inspire, Student Email, Building Teacher Websites, and Drop Box.

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 communications, parent involvement and parent understanding to improve student achievement.