

Dear Students and Parents,

I could not be more excited about the 2019-2020 school year at Stone Academy of Communication Arts. During the 18-19 school year, our students demonstrated outstanding success and growth! As your principal, I cannot wait to see all of the amazing accomplishments ahead of us! Our teachers and staff eagerly await the opportunity to start this year!

The theme for the 2019-2020 school year is "Create Your Story." Through student learning, reflection and experiences in the arts, we will encourage students to capture their uniqueness and creativity and author their story. As students evolve, our hope is for them to develop an understanding of themselves as learners and demonstrate confidence in all they do. We will encourage them to utilize their gifts to excel and we look forward to providing all students with experiences that prepare them for meaningful and productive lives. Our students in first through fifth grade will continue to work with individual technological devices as they engage in *Personalized Learning* this year. The use of these devices will support our holistic approach to educating all children based on their individual needs and interests. Additionally, *Personalized Learning* creates many opportunities for new and innovative learning, problem solving, and communication through digital and media arts.

We are so grateful to all parents and extended family for their strong support of our school! Through PTA and their fund-raising efforts and with the generous support of families and our community multiple teacher projects were funded across the school! This support addressed the instructional goals of the school and supported the curriculum to provide unique learning experiences for students.

If you are new to Stone Academy this year, I hope you will attend our New Families Welcome Event on Thursday, August 8 from 4-6 pm. This is a drop in event, however please note I will provide short presentation at 5pm to share some important information about our school. School representatives and current Stone families will share helpful information and offer tours of the building as well. This event is only for new to Stone families.

Meet the Teacher will be held from 4:00-6:00 pm on Thursday, August 15. Kindergarten families may arrive beginning at 2pm. This is also a drop-in event. Classroom rosters will be posted outside classrooms at 4:00 pm that afternoon for 1st-5th grade students (2pm for Kindergarten students only.) Class assignments will not be released before that time. Parents and students will be able to visit classrooms, meet teachers, join PTA, and reconnect with families and friends! We look forward to seeing you there!

We encourage you to follow Stone Academy on Facebook @stoneacademypta and visit our school's website www.greenville.k12.sc.us/stone We enjoy using our website and social media to share positive stories about our school and post important reminders and upcoming events.

We are very excited to welcome new employees to our school! We would like to extend a warm welcome to:

- SamcieJoe Philpot will join us in third grade.
- Emma Thomson (soon to be Quaglia) will also join the third grade team.
- Jennifer Walter will join us as the media clerk in the media center.
- Stephen Foster is now our technology lab manager.
- Betty Russell is our new 4th grade teacher.
- Patricia Taylor will join us for an additional day of Music.

I would like to take time to thank our amazing custodial staff for their hard work as we prepare for the new school year! Warren, Maria, Erwin and Marquais are dedicated to creating a school that is the best possible environment for your children to learn! They are amazing!

I look forward to getting to know each child and family this year! Thank you so much for entrusting us with your precious children!

With great appreciation!
Brett DeLoach Vaughn, Principal