

Pencils are sharpened, bookbags are packed, the bell has rung, and we are off to a successful start to the school year! If this is your first year at Stone Academy, thank you for joining our fantastic academic community; if you are returning, welcome back! It's going to be a great year.

Our school's success depends on the active involvement of our parent community. You should have already received a PTA membership form; there are many more ways to support the school, and we wanted to provide an overview of our Stone parent organizations and outline how you can get involved this year. The bottom line is we rely on our parents. Volunteer, come to meetings, spend time in the classroom, or bring us your special skill or talent. Keep reading for more specifics:

FOSA: Friends of Stone Academy is the parent fundraising arm for the school. Every year, FOSA raises money to support an arts enrichment program in every grade – from tap dance for first graders to the opportunity to participate in Blues Fest in fourth grade, or learning music integration with the non-profit MEMA-Music (Motivation, Encouragement, and Music Appreciation) in eighth grade. These innovative arts programs are funded exclusively by money that FOSA raises.

How can you support FOSA?

- **Raven Theater:** Raven actors and directors come to our second grade classrooms weekly in the winter to provide an introduction to theatre. The program culminates with the students writing, acting, and directing their own productions. To cover the costs of the program, Raven donates all ticket proceeds from an exclusive showing of their Spring play. Stone also hosts a silent auction at the play. We invite parents in Kindergarten through second grade to get involved in this event.
- **Other fundraising events:** During the year, there are many other activities, including the Write Club Parents Night Out and the Annual Jog-A-Thon. FOSA meets monthly. All are welcome to join the Friends of Stone Academy (FOSA). We look forward to meeting you.
- **Annual fund:** We hold an annual fundraising campaign and depend upon monetary contributions from our community to support Stone Academy arts enrichment.

Support FOSA or find out more by contacting friendsofstone@gmail.com

PTA: The Parent Teacher Association works to facilitate a great learning environment and build a supportive community for students and parents. The group hosts activities throughout the year, including Arts Night, beginning- and end-of-year picnics, an annual carnival, and much more. Funds for PTA events come from parent memberships.

How can you support the PTA?

- **Join:** All parents are encouraged to become members of the PTA.
- **Volunteer:** The success of PTA events depends on engaged parents who are willing to roll up their sleeves and chaperone the junior high dance or sell hot dogs at the carnival. You will hear about volunteer opportunities throughout the year.
- **Participate:** Come to PTA meetings to stay informed about Stone. Attend events to meet other families and see the great things our students are doing. You build the Stone community by being involved.

Support the PTA or find out more by contacting PTA@StonePTA.org.

Room Parents: Room parents help connect teachers and parents for each respective grade. Through your room parent, you will hear of any needs from your child's teacher. You will also receive regular news and updates for the classroom and the school.

How can you support Room Parents?

- **Spend time in the classroom:** Want to help out on Halloween? Or want to see first graders discover their love of reading? There are so many different ways to get involved in the classroom, and we need all the help we can get! Whether it's a few hours over the course

of the year, or concentrated time every week, teachers throughout the school (and in your child's classroom) will benefit from the time you are willing to give.

Support room parents or find out more by contacting stone.roomparents@gmail.com

The other organization integral to our school is the Local School Council, which is an elected body made up of parents, teachers, and community representatives to govern the school. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly LSC meetings.

Whatever skill, talent, or time you have, we welcome you!