



September 2018

Set In Stone!

Welcome Back!

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed a wonderful summer vacation. Things were very busy here at school, as we've prepared for an exciting new year. It was wonderful to see all the students and parents ready to start the school year this morning. The first day of school started very smoothly. Thank you to all the parents who were on hand and got their child(ren) to school on time! It is always a bit difficult to get back into an early routine after summer vacation, but it is much appreciated and helps to establish healthy habits for the school year.

As a reminder, students may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. in the playground. Due to limited staffing, we are unable to provide supervision any earlier. During inclement weather (rain, snow, temperature 25 degrees or below), children will be admitted inside and supervised in the auditorium. Dismissal is at 3:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily to all students at no cost. Students may also opt to bring their lunch from home, if they wish. School supplies may be brought directly to the classroom or dropped off in the office. Please write the child's name and room number on all bags.

New Faces and Different Places

Although our staff remains stable for the most part, you will see some new faces among the faculty and familiar faces in some different places.

Here is information on the new members:

- Ms. Becky Courtade has come to Stone from Moos Elementary and will teach Kindergarten in room 104.
- Ms. Sharon Chorba has joined our faculty as the Technology teacher and is taking over for Ms. Beck who is spending the year working at schools throughout CPS to help them implement computer science education
- Mrs. Caryn Silcock has moved from working as an inclusion teacher in the intermediate grades to working as a Second Grade teacher in room 204.
- Ms. Elizabeth Gant, who spent last year After Care program, will be teaching Third Grade in room 212.
- Ms. Ann Wengren will also be teaching Third Grade this year, after teaching Sixth Grade last year.
- Ms. Jennifer Wynne will be supporting students and teachers as our curriculum specialist this year.
- Ms. Anita Scotese is bringing her knowledge of Science and Math to the second where she will teach these sub-

jects to our fourth grade students.

- Ms. Ruth Loveless moved to the third floor and will work with sixth grade and support MTSS.

Ms. Sana Ashfaq has been hired as a new Teacher Assistant. She will be working with primary classes.

Student Fees

All students are assessed a \$100.00 student fee which helps offset the cost of consumable material, printing and subscriptions/periodicals. This fee does not include field trips or special grade-specific experiences (White Pines and 8th grade graduation). We do appreciate your prompt attention to satisfying this request. Please stop in the office or send your remittance with your child. Ms. Olga will issue a receipt for money received. If writing a check, please make it payable to Stone Academy and kindly write your child's name and room number in the memo section.



Coming and Going

If you are meeting your child after school, please utilize the large play lot for this purpose and please wait back by the play equipment so students have space to exit the building. This will help make it easier for all parents to see their children as they come out. Any child receiving an early dismissal must be signed out from the office. The school clerk will call the child down to meet you.

During both pick-up and drop-off, please do not park in front of school on Leavitt. We need this space to unload/load buses. Please do not park in or block crosswalks. This helps us ensure student safety

Homework for Parents

Your child will receive a packet of important forms early this week. Please complete, sign, and return these forms: Emergency Contact, CPS Family Income and Information, Media Consent, and the Student Code of Conduct. Completion of the CPS Family Income and Information form is mandatory, as this information is used to determine appropriate discretionary funding for Stone. It is important that all of these forms are returned with a parent/guardian signature. If you do not wish to supply your income information, please mark, DNA on the form, then sign and return it to school. We must have one form per child or family on file.

New Family Orientation, PTA and FOSA

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the New Family Orientation a huge success. It was fantastic to meet our newest Stone Eagles. We ask you to 'Save the Date' for the PTA Welcome Back Picnic on Friday the 14th at 6:00PM.

The Friends of Stone Academy (FOSA) and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) offer a wide variety of events to involve parents. Please consult our school website at: stoneacademy.net for a more complete listing. The Stone administration and faculty always look forward to welcoming you.

Playground Repairs

CPS repaired the matting on our playground last week and all Stone students now have a safer place to play. Both the Chief of Network 2 Eduardo Cesario and Alderman Debra Silverstein were instrumental in making sure these repairs were completed in time for our New Family Orientation. Be sure to take a look the next time you're on the playground.



Dress Code Reminder

Please take a moment to review the guidelines from the parent handbook:

Teachers will review and clarify expectations with students at the beginning of the year and provide reminders throughout the year. Students are required to wear SOLID dark blue or black pants or skirts and a SOLID white or blue shirt (any shade), blouse or top. Students may wear any official Stone Academy gear. Any sweater or sweatshirt must be solid white, blue or black. All apparel items should be free of decoration.

The following items will not be permitted at school:

- * Skirts and shorts shorter than 2 inches above the knee
- * Spandex shorts, t-strap tops and bare midriff blouses
- * Shirts with inappropriate slogans or advertising
- * Altered school shirts
- * Hoop earrings larger than a quarter in diameter
- * Outside garments such as jackets in the classrooms, (sweaters are acceptable)
- * Head covering/hats for reasons other than medical/religious
- * Excessive jewelry
- * Purses
- * Baggy, tight or torn pants or shorts
- * Pants worn below the waist level
- * Flip-flops



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 4
First Day of School

Tuesday, September 11
7:00pm FOSA Meeting

Friday, September 14
6th Grade World Weavers Residency Begins
6:00pm PTA- Back to School Picnic

Monday, September 17
6:30pm LSC Meeting

Thursday, September 20
Picture Day
6:00pm Curriculum Night

Friday, September 21
6:00pm PTA- Back to School Picnic (Rain Date)

Tuesday, September 25
6:30pm PTA Meeting

Thursday, September 27
Kevin Henkes - Author Visit

Parent Patrol

Are you looking for a new way to support the school? We need new parents to help in the morning with the Parent Patrol. This group of hard working parents spends their mornings making sure drop off runs smoothly by opening car doors and helping students get to the playground quickly. You don't need to come every day and it lasts from 7:45-8:10. If you are interested in helping, please call the main office and leave your contact information.

Pictures

All students will have their picture taken on September 20th and order forms will be sent home. Online ordering is easy! Parents can order online at interstate.com/order using your school's unique order code. The unique order code for Stone Scholastic Academy is 28709ZF.

We Had a Great First Week

Dr. Janice Jackson, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, visited Stone Academy this week and toured the school with Ms. Nestler and Mr. Brandon. Dr. Jackson commented on how impressed she was with our school community and the positive school culture. She mentioned how nice it is to see students learning routines at the beginning of the school year. Just like so many of our students, the library was one of her favorite places in the building. Dr. Jackson is a big fan of musicals, so we plan to see her back for this year's production.



Middle School Kicks Off Advisory with a Visit from KWOE

The Chicago rapper, entertainer, entrepreneur, and mentor returned to Stone this week to help kick-off the Advisory program. Kareem Wells, also known as KWOE, promised the students last year he would come back to Stone and throw a dance party if students continued to treat each other with kindness. The Advisory team decided to use the event as a way to get kids excited about our new program. Students in grades 6-8 will gather in multi-grade groups called "Nests" (we are the Stone Eagles) and students will discuss important middle school issues, build community and complete lessons on making good choices.



Curriculum Night

We hope to see all parents at this year's curriculum night September 20th. Curriculum night is a time to focus on instruction and content, not a time to discuss individual student concerns. If you wish to speak with your child's teacher individually, please schedule a conference for another time. Also, it is a time for teachers and parents to discuss instruction and content, not an event for children. There will be three presentations by each grade level, allowing parents with children in different grades a chance to attend each presentation.

Schedule 6:00 - 6:10 pm Welcome and Introductions; 6:15 - 6:45 pm Session 1;
6:50 - 7:20 pm Session 2; 7:25 - 7:55 pm Session 3