

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to Stone Middle School!

We had a very smooth beginning to our school year and would like to thank you for participating in Panther Prep Night and returning all necessary forms to the office in a timely manner. We enjoy working with your children and are looking forward to helping them transition from elementary school to high school. In order to make this transition a little easier on you and the kids we have tried to list the most frequently asked questions regarding office procedures. If we have missed one, please call us and we will be happy to assist you.

Please keep in mind that we have 860 students and two people working in the front office.

My child has a dentist/doctor appointment during the school day. What do I need to do?

Have your child bring a note to the office before school begins. The note should tell us why they are being dismissed early and what time you will be picking them up. We will give them a pass to be released from class five minutes before the stated pick-up time. This will allow them to stop by their locker and pick-up their belongings and be in the office when you arrive.

I just got a doctor/dental appt. for my child. I did not send a note, and they do not know I am coming to pick them up. Can you call them out of class and let them know?

This would mean interrupting two different classes to let them know of the appt. We are trying to minimize the number of disruptions to instructional time, so allow yourself a few extra minutes and we will call them when you arrive. Please bring identification.

My child is going to be late arriving to school, what do I need to do?

You should call our attendance line 703-631-5555, please speak clearly, stating your student's name (spell the last name), the reason they are going to be late and what time you estimate their arrival at school. If you leave this message, you do not need to accompany them into the building, you may drop them off at the door and instruct them to go to the attendance desk to check-in.

My child was late to school because the kiss and ride line was backed up.

Unfortunately, this is an unexcused tardy. The kiss and ride line is always long especially on rainy or cold days. You need to allow extra time if you will be using kiss and ride. We unofficially suggest that you use the sidewalks on Cranoake Street or Kamputa (depending on which direction you are coming from) to drop your students off safely away from Sully Park Drive or Braddock Road. Your student will only have to walk a block or two to school, and you will completely avoid the Kiss and Ride line.

It is raining and I need to let my child know to ride the bus home. Can you give him a message?

We try very hard at the middle school level not to disrupt classes, and with 860 students, it becomes impossible to relay messages to many students during the school day. However, students are allowed to use cell phones right after school, so parents and students can exchange texts or calls at that time. Otherwise, please make certain your child knows what they are supposed to do in the case of inclement weather.

My child forgot their lunch, homework, PE clothes, picture money, etc. What do I do?

You may leave the items for your student in the office. We will not call them out of class to pick up the item. They should be instructed to come down to the office to see if you have dropped it off.

Can you remind my child to stay after school?

We try very hard at the middle school level not to disrupt classes, and with 860 students, it becomes impossible to relay messages to many students during the school day. However, students are allowed to use cell phones right after school, so parents and students can exchange texts or calls at that time. If this becomes an issue, you can email your child's Panther Block teacher, who will be able to remind them as they see your child the last period every day; however, students at this age are expected to be responsible for themselves – if they need to stay after school work together with them to develop a routine that will help them remember to do it.

My child needs to ride the bus home with another student. How do they get a pass?

Due to bus overcrowding, students are not permitted to ride home with a friend. There are no exceptions to this rule. If there is a change of residence in an emergency that will mean the student will be staying with another family or extended family for a period of time, please contact your school counselor and he/she will work with you to ensure correct transportation.

I got an automated phone call saying my child was absent from 2nd period. What do I need to do?

Please call the attendance office at 703-631-5576. There are several reasons this may have occurred, but it is best to speak with someone in attendance regarding the absence.

My child has lost their coat, hat, lunch box, glasses, jewelry, library book, Ipod, etc. Do you have a lost and found?

Yes, we do. We keep valuable items in the office, ie. glasses, jewelry, electronics. We also keep books, planners, pencil cases in the office. Clothing is placed in the lost and found area in the cafeteria. Clothing is donated to local charities once a month. Please instruct your child to look for their lost items.

My child cannot open their locker. What do they do?

Please tell them to come to the office and we will have a staff member assist them.

My child didn't eat lunch today because they left their lunch at home.

We recommend placing money in their lunch account so this will not happen in the future. You may go to mylunchmoney.com and put money directly into their lunch account. The PTA also has an emergency fund to cover forgotten lunches. The student should come to the office, we will give them a PTA lunch pass, which will provide them with a sandwich and milk for the day. It is expected that the student will reimburse the PTA lunch pass program so that other students may use it in the future.

I want to eat lunch with my child and his/her friends in the cafeteria. Can I do that?

We do not have parents eat in the cafeteria with students at Stone. There are almost 300 students in each lunch period, and believe me, it's not a place a parent would typically like to be as it's loud and very crowded. As well, most middle school students want nothing to do with being seen with their parents in a school setting, so we try to respect the developmental aspect of that. We can certainly have your student come to the main office and have lunch with you, and we have a table or conference room where you can do it, but we don't have enough room to accommodate more than one family.