

August 2025

Dear Stone Mill Parents:

We are all invigorated and ready to start a new and fantastic school year! For me, this is an especially exciting year as it is my 25th year as the principal of our amazing school. Hard to imagine that it has been that many years, yet when I think through the years, I think of the remarkable accomplishments of all our current and former students. I am so proud to be a part of such excellence.

We have been cleaning and shining everything in the building. I met with the glass artist about the new, stained glass design that will be installed in our main hallway soon. It's a gorgeous, 5-panel picture of a tiger, gifted to our school from last year's fifth grade class and our amazing PTA.

One of the things I love about the beginning of the school year is that I know many, many new things will happen, and I cannot ever predict what they will be. It's always so thrilling to see what each year brings! 😊 I am excited to take this journey with you and your children!

This year our bell schedule will be:

- 9:05 – Children can come on school grounds (no adult supervision prior to this time)
- 9:15 – First bell and children can enter the school
- 9:25 – Late bell and instruction begins
- 3:45 – Walkers and car circle dismissed
- 3:50 – Buses loaded as they arrive

This year, children who are brand-new to Stone Mill are invited to spend the day with us on Monday, August 25, 2025 as a way to “transition” into our school. Students will be meeting the teachers, specialists and staff. They will learn where the bathrooms are, where the gym is, what the rules at recess are, etc. At 2:15 on that day, (so we don't lose anyone in the Open House rush of parents and current students), all “transition” day kiddos will be moved into our cafeteria. If you are the parent of a brand-new, Stone Mill child, and you are attending the Open House, you will need to swing by the cafeteria and sign your child out so everyone is under adult supervision at all times. 😊 If you have a child coming to Stone Mill for the first time and you'd like him/her to attend “transition day,” please fill out the Google form if you haven't: <https://forms.gle/6h3kgRfzhNZy2DiKA>

The entire staff is looking forward to a wonderful year of working in partnership with you. We encourage all parents to take an active role in the school and to communicate regularly with the staff at Stone Mill. (Just as a quick reminder, MCPS does NOT allow students to carry or wear any device able to communicate with the outside world, including parents).

This year we continue to protect the students by limiting access to the school. When adults come to drop off something for a child, to drop off or pick up a child outside of regular hours, etc. like last year, adults will be asked to ring the doorbell, and a school staff member will

respond. Only children will be routinely allowed in the building. Parents will please remain outside. This is for general safety. As for helping in the classroom (after things get underway), teachers will be able to have volunteers in the classrooms, by appointment only. Each day the office will have a list of people and times to expect them. Everyone who volunteers will need to have current Child Abuse and Neglect training. We will still be using our wonderful, automated, phone, "Remind" and email communication systems where we call and inform families about important events at Stone Mill. So, if you get a recorded message from Stone Mill, please stay on the line to hear the updates. When you receive an email that says, "No Reply" that's not spam. Please read everything from me, the teachers and from the school.

After a short greeting from our Assistant Principal, Chris Lyons, important informational items about the opening and operation of school for the upcoming year will follow. Please read carefully as there have been changes made since last year. Should you have any questions, please contact the office at (240) 740-5450.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kimberly A. Williams Cascio
Principal

Dear Stone Mill Elementary School Family,

We have been planning all summer for another wonderful school year. I know that this year will bring great learning and much enjoyment to everyone. As always, we will challenge children so that they can reach their fullest potential. I look forward to working with all the children for another wonderful year!

Sincerely,
Chris Lyons
Assistant Principal

TIMES TO VISIT AND LEARN ABOUT STONE MILL

TRANSITION DAY

Monday, August 25 is Montgomery County Public Schools' Transition Day. Kindergarten to grade 5 students who will be coming to Stone Mill ES for the VERY FIRST time are invited to learn about rules and procedures. Parents can choose to join their children at 2:15 for the open house to drop off school supplies and to meet the teacher. Children whose parents do not come for the open house will go home (walking, bus, or car circle) at 3:45.

If you have a child coming to Stone Mill for the first time and you'd like him/her to attend "transition day," please fill out the Google form if you haven't:

<https://forms.gle/6h3kgRfzhNZy2DiKA>

Note the following:

- Students who are new to Stone Mill ES are invited.

- Houses 1.1 miles away will have busing as usual.
- Regular school hours - 9:15am to 3:45pm.

First Instructional Day of School is Tuesday, August 26, 2025 for all students. We look forward to seeing you then!

NEW STUDENT PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

We will be holding a short, informational parent meeting for parents new to Stone Mill at the start of the school Open House, August 25th at 2:10 pm. The meeting is for families who are fully registered with the school. There will be a separate line-up for parents attending the meeting in our cafeteria and you can come in, hear the information (about 20 minutes), and then attend the Open House. If your child is spending the day with us for “Transition Day” he/she will be in the media center, and you can sign him/her out to attend the Open House with you.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

As always, we will be posting class assignments on our home page. The children will be listed by first name and last initial. You will be able to see the entire class when you visit the site! The classes will be posted by 4 pm on Friday, August 22nd. (Because the school system requires us to assign a child to a teacher for the fall in June, class assignments on ParentVUE are not accurate). If you don't have access to a computer, you can either visit the public library or call the school office beginning Friday at 4. Our web address is: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/stonemilles/>

OPEN HOUSE

The annual **Open House** for all PreK – 5 students and parents will be on **Monday, August 25, 2025, from 2:15 – 3:15 pm.**

The Open House is a time for students to see the school, meet their teachers, find their new classrooms, and meet some of their classmates. This is a great time to drop off school supplies! Teachers will be available to greet students, and will not be discussing programs or specifics about children.

A formal presentation on curriculum for all classes will occur at our **Back-to-School Night, Thursday, September 11, 2025, immediately following the PTA meeting at 5:45-6:10.** The grade Pre-K to 2 presentations will be from 6:15-7:00 PM and the grade 3-5 presentations will be from 7:05-7:50 PM. There will not be a virtual option. This timing is earlier than in years' past.

ENROLLMENT

Summer is a busy time at Stone Mill as we continue to enroll new students and say goodbye to children who are moving. If you have new neighbors who have not yet enrolled their child(ren), please encourage them to contact the school office as soon as possible.

CELL PHONES/COMMUNICATION DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

Children are not allowed to communicate with the outside world (that includes family, sorry) during the school day. Our focus must be on instruction and the tasks at hand. If your child has

a cell phone, Apple watch, Gizmo, or any other device that allows either one-way or two-way communication, it must be off and in the backpack during the school day. If it rings during the day, is pulled out of the backpack during the day, or is used in any fashion, an adult will hold it for you to pick up and not send in again.

Some parents have expressed the desire to track/monitor their child during the school day. Should you want to have a tracker that has NO communication abilities (Like an Apple Air Tag), that is perfectly fine to have in the backpack. AngelSense devices and other items that can be activated to listen in and/or communicate even in a parent-to-child fashion, even if the child cannot reply back, are not allowed. Devices that can be activated remotely or at-will cannot be worn.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT SCHOOL

Parents often enjoy dropping off treats (food or non-food – not both) for the class to celebrate his/her child's birthday. Classroom birthday celebrations are for the children at the lunchroom table. Because the celebrations are quite brief and occur during the workday for families, parents are asked to drop off the treats and have a separate family celebration at home if desired.

Again this year **summer** birthdays will be celebrated on the child's half birthday. For example, if your child's birthday is August 1st, he/she can celebrate in the classroom on February 1st. PLEASE contact your child's teacher prior to dropping off any treats.

Also, please keep in mind the following rules for what to bring in:

- All foods MUST be store bought with the ingredient label still on. (We have children with life-threatening allergies and need to know what items are entering the school).
- If your child has allergies to foods, please let our health tech, Romina Donolo, know and consider sending in non-perishable treats or treats (like baked goods) that can be frozen to store in the health room for your own child. No child with documented allergies will be given foods that are sent in by others for birthdays. As I cannot guarantee a child with allergies safety to foods brought in by others, I will not risk lives for birthday treats.
- **No juice, balloons, whole cakes with knives to cut them, treats that need freezing or refrigeration or homemade foods are allowed.**
- Treats should be small and easy to eat.
- Small non-food treats or small non-food items are only allowed if that is the only treat. Non-food treats cannot be given in addition to a food treat.
- **Birthday party invitations for parties outside of school can NOT be passed out at Stone Mill** (unless you are inviting every single person in the class).

SNACK AND WATER

Many classes invite children to have a snack sometime during the instructional day in the classroom. Snack is optional and, if desired, to be brought from home. The school does not provide snacks for children.

We have working, safe, water fountains for children who don't bring a water bottle for the day and bottle-filling stations for those who do.

LUNCH PROGRAM

School lunch menus will be available on the web. Breakfast and lunch must be paid for either by check, cash or at MySchoolBucks.com. Lunch costs \$2.55. There are no longer PIN numbers, but rather children will be using the same login that they already use for the library, computer, and online payment system. Peanut Butter/Jelly and Grilled Cheese is offered at lunch daily. Families needing financial assistance to pay for school lunch (lunches from home are certainly allowed), must fill out the application form for Free and Reduced Benefits.

Transition Day Monday 8/25/25	Tuesday 8/26/25	Wednesday 8/27/25	Thursday 8/28/25	Friday 8/29/25
Pizza	Hamburger and fries	Beef taco with scoops	Mini Chicken bites w/ mac and cheese	Pizza
Grilled Cheese	OR	OR	OR	OR
PBJ	Chik'n Nuggets (vegetarian)	Cheesy Pull Aparts	Bean and cheese pupusa	Turkey Ham and Cheese Croissant Sandwich

Nut and Seed Free Table - This year we will again be having a "Nut/Seed Free" table in the cafeteria. Children who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and/or seeds will be able to sit at this table daily. The children can have non-allergic friends sit with them at the table. but the friends' lunches must be peanut, nut and seed free for that day. Should your child have an allergy and you would prefer your child to sit with his/her class, simply send a note to the office letting us know. Children cannot move back and forth between the two tables. A family must decide which table is the better option for their child.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus routes have changed since last year, so please look carefully at the attached schedule. AND you can now see your child's bus information on ParentVUE! I will attach the flyer at the end of this document. Schools are still waiting for the Department of Transportation to publish a bus route list, so if you live 1.1 miles or farther, please look on ParentVUE for bus info.

Children who live within 1.1 miles from the school and have a safe walking route to the school do not receive bus transportation. Children who are enrolled under a "Change of School Assignment" do not receive bus transportation. MCPS does not permit children who are "walkers" to instead go to a nearby bus stop and take that bus to school. MCPS also does not allow children to cross a street in order to board a bus. For example, the first stop on bus route #5311 (blue bus) is listed as, "Lake Winds Way and Settlers Landing Way – RSO." RSO stands for right side only. Children who live on the opposite side of the street are not to cross the road in order to receive bus transportation or to pick up a bus at an earlier or later time than the one

assigned to your home. We have had some difficulty with too many children riding buses to avoid walking, and it is unsafe to cross roads in traffic to catch a bus. Any child needing to ride a non-assigned bus in order to visit a friend after school for a play date will need a written note from home that will have to be approved and signed in our main office once it is determined that a seat is available.

Parents who drive their children to school can begin dropping them off starting at **9:05 A.M.** **NO adult supervision will be present prior to 9:05.** It is essential that children be safe in the front lot, so please drop your child off on the sidewalk at the car circle. Children should NOT be discharged in the lot. They should only be discharged onto the sidewalk at the car circle. We do not want children to have to walk among moving vehicles. Please remember that we have two lanes in the car circle: one for dropping children off and one for leaving the lot. After your child is dropped off safely onto the curb, please pull into the outside lane so that other cars can move up and we can unload as many children as possible. **For the safety of the children, please NEVER move the barrels at the end of the lanes. We need to keep traffic flowing in a predictable and safe pattern.** Finally, all children are to be safely transported as above. Stopping, dropping up or picking up children on the side street, Quietwood Drive, is not allowed. Please obey all traffic signs posted on school grounds and the surrounding area. (Please see the attached traffic pattern map).

KINDERGARTEN TRANSPORTATION

With full-day Kindergarten, no special transportation is provided for our Kindergarten students. However, safety patrols will be on duty to assist walking children in crossing intersections. All children, including Kindergarten students, who live in areas where bus transportation is regularly provided, may ride the buses (see above). Walkers should walk with peers, and very young children should find an older, school-aged buddy to walk with.

Since the transportation of students is a very complex operation for the first few weeks of school, I encourage you to wait with your child for the bus to arrive, to be at the designated stop when the bus returns, and to allow ample waiting time until the schedule has been refined.

LETTER TO STUDENTS

Please share the attached letter with your child.

SCHOOL HOURS

The Stone Mill instructional day officially begins at 9:25 A.M. **Children will be permitted to enter the building and move to their classrooms at the 9:15 A.M. bell.** If your child is a walker, please assist him/her in planning what time to leave so that he/she arrives between 9:05 and 9:20. If you drive your child or your child takes a bus to school, he/she will be permitted to enter the building as early as 9:15. Should a bus or walker arrive slightly earlier, the children will be asked to wait in grade level lines at the front door until the prescribed time. **There is no adult supervision earlier than 9:05, so please have your walkers arrive on time rather than early.** **Children cannot be left without an adult prior to 9:05.** Children being driven to school can begin to arrive at 9:05. The car circle is pretty empty between 9:05 and 9:15. All students entering after 9:25 A.M. need to have his/her parent ring the bell for the child to gain entry.

CROSSING GUARD HOURS - The Montgomery County Police, School Safety Unit is gearing up for the start of another safe and successful school year! **Our crossing guard's post times will be as follows: Stonebridge View Drive (Front of School) - 8:55 - 9:25 am and 3:45 – 4:15 pm.**

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR – To view the MCPS school year calendar, please visit: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/calendars/> The calendar is available in multiple languages. (We are a “traditional” school).

SCHOOL BEGINS TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025! ☺

The regular school hours are as follows:

9:15 - Students enter classrooms.

9:25 - Instruction begins.

11:00 – 2:30 Lunch/recess (Each class has one hour for lunch and recess).

3:45 Walkers and car circle dismissed.

3:50 Bus riders dismissed.

PEP HOURS

PEP Classic and Pilot 9:25-11:55 and 1:20-3:50

PEP, INC 9:25-11:55 and 1:20-3:50

PEP, full day 9:25 - 3:50 P.M.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

All K-5 and PEP full day students will be dismissed at 1:15 P.M. after lunch.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Please make sure we have a copy of your child's immunizations. You can email the information to the school as soon as possible if you haven't already. **Students in grades K-5 are required to have two measles immunizations.**

RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TRAINING

In order to be allowed to volunteer, Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Training MUST be completed. It is an online module that takes about 30 minutes and is available on the Stone Mill and MCPS websites. The training is valid for three years. Once you complete the training, please email your confirmation number to me so that we can ensure your name is on our list. The training is offered through your ParentVUE account.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We want to ensure that home and school are communicating regularly! It is very important that you provide us with accurate email addresses, cell phone numbers, home numbers and work numbers so that the health room, main office and teachers are able to communicate with you

effectively and efficiently. In addition, as in previous years, you will be receiving the “Student Emergency Information” form AND can instead do the form online in ParentVUE. When you provide or update your information, please be sure to check that your telephone numbers are correct when you return the form to the school. It is the home number on this form that our phone system calls to provide you with updated information.

WE NEED PHONE NUMBERS TO REACH YOU AT WORK DURING THE DAY

Our health room will only call you at work in the event of a health emergency. We will not use your work number for recorded calls or other non-time sensitive issues. Too often parents will not list a work number, and we’ll have a child with a raging fever in the health room for hours because we can’t reach a parent on his/her cell. For the health and well-being of your children, please make sure we have numbers to reach you during the workday.

SICK CHILDREN – PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME

It is our goal at Stone Mill to keep our school open and our children healthy. This was true prior to COVID. This is even more important now. Should your child(ren) have fever and/or vomiting, sore throat, cold symptoms, or cough, PLEASE keep him/her/them home and consult with your doctor. It is NOT acceptable to give your child(ren) Tylenol, Motrin, Advil, or any other fever reducer in the morning and send the child to school for the day. As a working parent myself, I truly understand how difficult it can be to miss work to stay home with a sick child. As an educator, I also understand the importance of children coming to school in order to keep up with the rigorous curriculum. All that being said, it will help your child and the entire school for sick children to stay at home until they are fever and vomit free for a full 24 hours. By keeping your sick children home, you are helping to keep our school open for everyone. If you need to talk to the health tech, please call 240-740-5452. Thanks in advance for your help!

ONLINE PAYMENT FOR FIELD TRIPS, ETC. – Payment for all field trips happens electronically with credit and debit cards in a program is called, “SchoolCash Online.” (Please note that the SchoolCash Online payment system is NOT related to school cafeteria accounts)

SchoolCash Online helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily. SchoolCash Online will help increase efficiency and security at schools by making payments directly into schools’ bank accounts and eliminating the need for teachers to handle money. In addition, once registered, you will be immediately informed about school activities!

Parents/guardians can register now at - <https://mcpsmd.schoolcashonline.com/>

STAFF UPDATE

We have had a few exciting changes with our staff this year. We are thrilled to welcome some new teachers and teachers changing positions to a wonderful new school year. After the retirements of our counselor and media specialist, we welcome Lauren Kline and Marnie Veizis. Mrs. Kline is a remarkable and experienced counselor who has worked both in schools and in private counseling. Mrs. Veizis comes to us from DuFief ES where she has spent the past 13 years as their media assistant as she finished her media specialist degree. Both will amaze you!

For our special education team, we welcome the remarkable Cara Carroll and Lindsay White. As you may know, all of our special educators had beautiful babies last year and are either on leave or have moved closer to home. For our English for Language Learners (ELL/ESOL) staff, as Mrs. Bay and Mrs. Tu have both retired, we are excited to have Carrie Conley be full-time and Jennifer Hsu reprise her role as part-time. For speech/language (special education services) we welcome Ashton Davenport as full-time and Caroline Kaufmann as part-time. Brand new to our school we are thrilled to have Carol Bell (veteran teacher who long-term subbed for us previously) in third grade, Nadya Sivaslian (Mrs. Wolfe's niece!) in fourth grade, and Josh Sibley (tried to hire previously and finally got him), for fifth grade. Moving to new roles in the building will be Susie Lee in reading initiative, Katie Rosenfeld and April Altman to first grade, Stacey Donmoyer to second grade and Claire Niraula is heading to fifth grade. Our new and very wonderful pupil personnel worker is Jason Boteler.

As always, we have a Blue Ribbon line up for your children this year!!! Our new staff members, like our veteran staff are excited and ready to continue bringing excellence to our school.

VIDEO TAPING, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND YOU TUBE

For all large group events (Open House, Back to School Night, school events or concerts), I wanted to include this info. To protect the privacy of children and staff members and in deference to families with custody issues, I ask that you refrain from taking photographs and/or videos of children other than your own. We have had parents video and/or photograph teachers, chorus or instrumental concerts, talent show, etc, and then post them on the Internet. PLEASE DON'T. ☺

PATROL UPDATE AND BELT PICK-UP

As always, we will not be assigning patrols at intersections beyond where the crossing guard can see the children. There will be no patrols present at the intersections farther from the school down Stonebridge View Drive. As always, parents should please advise their children on safe crossing techniques and the importance of walking to school in groups. Patrols may pick up their belts from our patrol sponsor Mrs. Paschall during the open house up in the fifth-grade hallway. Just FYI, outdoor patrol duties begin at 9:00 and indoor patrols at 9:05.

PTA INFORMATION

We need you in the PTA so if you have not yet joined, please do so now! The parents of PTA are such an amazing support to our school and our children, and your membership and involvement are needed to keep the school strong. Please mark your calendars with the following important dates:

PTA meeting -- September 11, 2025, 5:45-6:10 pm. (BTS night follows)

Back to School Picnic (Food trucks available) – September 12, 2025, 5:30-7:30 pm on the back field

SEE YOU SOON!

We look forward to working with you and your child (ren) this coming school year. We are very excited about getting to know each and every one of you personally. We hope to see everyone at the **Open House on Monday, August 25, 2025**. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

August 2025

Dear Stone Mill Student,

I hope you are ready for another (or maybe your first) exciting year at Stone Mill! I am looking forward to a year of great wonder and new learning!

I hope you have been enjoying summer as much as I have been. I hope you have had an opportunity to travel, learn and explore this summer too! I have been spending my time reading, exercising, cooking, and visiting family out of state. The building is gorgeous, and we are so excited to have you bring the energy and excitement we have been missing since you left in June.

We have some new teachers and staff members who can't wait to see you in person, as I've told them so many amazing things about the children at Stone Mill. And as always, Ms. Laurie, Mr. DJ, Mr. Carlos and the building services crew have worked really hard to make the school extra beautiful for your return. Please remember to keep it beautiful. 😊

Have Mom or Dad help you look on our website on Friday, August 22 after 4:00, to see your new class, and I look forward to seeing you at the Open House on August 25th

Enjoy your last week of summer, and I will see you soon!

Sincerely,
Dr. Williams Cascio
Principal

New Student Parent Meeting



Uncertain about what to expect for your child new to Stone Mill? Then this is the meeting for you!

Parents of new students are invited to attend a brief meeting in our cafeteria to discuss school procedures.

This is an opportunity for parents to have their questions answered.

**The meeting will be held on
Friday, August 25th at 2:10 P.M**

For safety, all children who are joining us for the "Transition Day" will be waiting in the media center during the parent meeting and during the open house. If you are coming to the open house, please stop by the media center and sign out your child.

How to Locate New Bus Route Assignment Fields In Synergy® Education Platform

Student [Search] [Add] [Delete]

Student Name: [Wheaton High] | Home: [Teacher] | Counselor Name: [Administrator Name]

Demographics | Protected Information | Maryland Home Language Survey | OLR-HS Common App | Student Indicators | COVID | Enrollment | Enrollment History | Classes | Documents | Contact Log | Notes

Last Name: [] | First Name: [] | Middle Name: [] | Suffix: [] | Student ID: [] | Grade: [] | Gender: []

Transportation

Pick Up Information

Transportation Type: Bus Route | Bus Stop: []

Pick up: 3417 | LAYHILL RD AND QUEENSGUARD RD - RSO

Pick Up Time: 7:04 AM

Comment: 3417 - WHEATON HS

Drop Off Information

Transportation Type: Bus Route | Bus Stop: []

Drop off: 3417 | LAYHILL RD AND QUEENSGUARD RD - RSO

Drop Off Time: 2:48 PM

Comment: 3417 - WHEATON HS PM

How to Locate Transportation Data in Synergy SIS:

- 1) Login to **Synergy SIS**
- 2) Navigate to the **Student** screen
- 3) Use the **magnifying glass** icon or the **navigation arrows** to open a record
- 4) Select the **Other Info** tab
- 5) Scroll down until you see the **Transportation** area with **Pick Up** and **Drop Off** Information fields

How to Search Transportation fields in Synergy SIS:

- 1) Select the **magnifying glass** icon to enter Synergy's search mode (fields turn yellow)
- 2) Select one (or more) of the **Pick Up** or **Drop Off** fields you'd like to use as search criteria
- 3) To search a dropdown menu or time: simply select the menu options you'd like to search
- 4) To search a field: enter the text criteria to search for or use ***** as a wildcard search

Transportation Type: Bus R

Pick up: 3417

Pick Up Time: 8:59 AM

Bus Route: Keating

Bus Stop: Keating

Check/Uncheck All

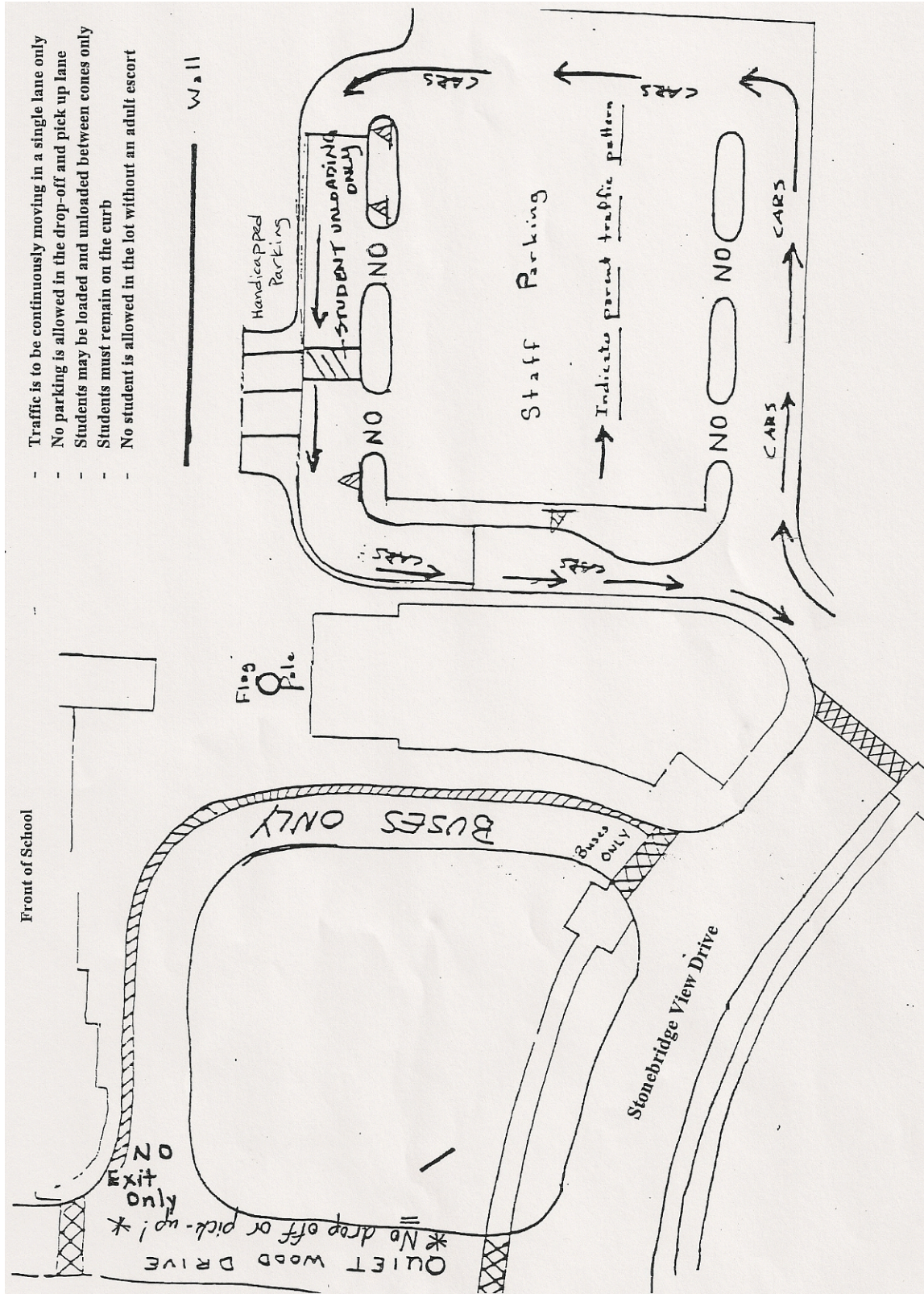
☒ Pick up

☐ Drop off

- 5) Once all search criteria have been selected, click the **FIND** button
- 6) There is a new **magnifying glass** icon in the top right corner of SIS. It helps users navigate searched records without having to toggle between the screen and the **Found Set** window. Simply select to open it, perform a search and close the **Found Set** window to navigate found from there instead.

Lock | Sign Out | Support | 2025-2026 | (Show Active and Inactive)

- Traffic is to be continuously moving in a single lane only
- No parking is allowed in the drop-off and pick up lane
- Students may be loaded and unloaded between cones only
- Students must remain on the curb
- No student is allowed in the lot without an adult escort



PTA News

PTA Welcome Note and Back to School Checklist:

Stone Mill ES Parent Teacher Association welcomes you to the 2025-2026 school year! We are gearing up for an enriching and fun year for our kids! As you prepare for your child to return to school, we would like to share some important information about your PTA.

What we do?

Your PTA provides great support to the staff and works with the school to enrich the lives of our children. All SMES PTA details, Newsletters, Calendar of Events, and contact information can be found on **our website**: www.stonemillespta.org.

PTA Back To School Checklist

☐ **Become a Member!**

How can you support the school and staff? Become a PTA member! **Your membership** helps support PTA programs and connects you to your PTA. You will receive a free online Directory with membership!

☐ **Verify your Directory Information!**

The School Directory is a great resource for contacting with students in your child's class, accessing class lists, etc. Please verify your Directory information online at <https://stonemillpta.membershiptoolkit.com>. If you have questions, please email PTA at stonemillpta1@gmail.com.

☐ **Stay Informed!**

Stay in the loop all year round by signing up for PTA Newsletters at www.stonemillespta.org/newsletters.

☐ **Volunteer with PTA!** Our PTA serves the school and your children, and they need your help! Sign up to volunteer: <https://www.stonemillespta.org/volunteer>

Mark your Calendars

Please join us at the following upcoming Fall events:

PTA Meet and Greet –Tuesday, August 26, 9:30 - 10:00am, Front of School

After the morning bell on the first day of school, join Dr. Williams, Mr. Lyons, and the PTA Board in front of the school for coffee, refreshments, and introductions! We look forward to meeting you!

Back to School Picnic – Friday, September 12, 5:30 - 7:30pm, SMES Playground

Join us for a fun-filled evening at our Back to School Picnic! A DJ will keep us dancing and pizza and other treats will be available for purchase. This is a great opportunity to connect with PTA, friends old and new, and school staff!

PTA Meeting #1 at Back-to-School Night – Thursday, September 11, 5:45 to 6:10pm

Join us at 5:45pm for our first PTA Meeting of the year! We will share plans for the 2025-2026 school year, ask you to approve the 2025-2026 PTA budget, and offer ways to get involved. Back to School Night will follow. We will review the proposed budget, bylaws, and vote in a few new board members at this meeting so please attend!

Links to the bylaws (format only changes due to new Maryland FreeState PTA organization):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ITTP2TZraRF6dxX_vwllnRWifH3QKrlG/edit#

Bylaws addendum

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a4ozSmDlAlaWD5SGp8UP9qgYZCFtzcCC/edit>

Questions or Comments?

Please email SMES PTA at: stonemillespta1@gmail.com