

COVID-19 Update: 03-13-2020

Dear Stone Academy Community,

I want to start by saying how much I appreciate everyone's patience, calmness, and understanding over the past few days as we have been working to implement a plan that will prioritize both the safety of our students and faculty. This plan will allow faculty and students to remain engaged with their education. As I have stated before, this is an extremely unusual situation that depends upon the entire Stone Academy community to endure.

This morning, Stone Academy received approval from the Accrediting Bureau for Health Education Schools (ABHES) to begin transitioning our non-clinical coursework online. This approval allows Stone Academy to pursue an already established agreement with Goodwin University to begin offering our courses on their online learning platform, Blackboard. It is important for me to note that each course will still have the same instructor and will resume where it left off this week.

Below, I have provided a timeline of events as we currently project them. I need everyone to understand that this is a massive administrative undertaking, requiring the coordination and resources of two entities to bring to fruition, and any/all of these dates may be subject to change based upon developments in the interim.

March 14, 2020

Yesterday's communication remains in effect with one addition, classes are not only cancelled for students but for faculty as well.

March 16-18, 2020

Classes are cancelled for all students both remotely and on campus. During this time faculty will receive training on Blackboard and the campuses will remain completely staffed and open, with staff and faculty encouraged to follow the strict prevention and monitoring strategies that have been developed to limit face-to-face interactions and reduce the possibility of transmission.

Students will also begin to receive emails introducing them to the Blackboard platform.

March 19 to April 5, 2020

Students will begin receiving online instruction through the Blackboard learning management system. The campus will remain open and completely staffed to provide support to students, faculty, and prospective students in all regards. On-campus visits by students and faculty will be limited and everyone is encouraged to call before coming to campus for any reason. This will enable us to ensure that the number of people on campus does not pose a heightened health risk.

I know that this letter may provide more questions than answers; therefore, for the purpose of answering these questions and keeping everyone up to date, Stone Academy has created a webpage that will become active by 5pm today. The address is www.stone.edu/COVID-19. Please visit the page regularly as this will become my primary medium to communicate details surrounding COVID-19 and the institution's efforts.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding. I consider everyone's health and safety my personal responsibility and I will continue to dedicate the entirety of my efforts to it.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Bierbaum
President