

On April 2, 2020, Dr. Randy Mikolas, president, announced the selection of Katie Van Deven Wilson '01 as the next principal of Incarnate Word Academy.

Dr. Randy cited Wilson's academic credentials, her deep commitment to Catholic education and her strong faith background as key contributing factors in her selection. "We are delighted to have Katie return to her Incarnate Word Academy family," Mikolas said. "Katie's passion for learning is inspiring, and we look forward to her partnership with our outstanding faculty and staff to continue to bring an excellent education to our students."

"As I shared with the interview committee, this is one in a series of God moments," Wilson commented. "He is telling me this is where I need to be, back home at IWA! My family and I are deeply rooted at Incarnate Word Academy, as my mom and aunts (on both sides) graduated from IWA," she added. "I look forward to meeting everyone, getting to know the community, and building lasting relationships. I am honored to be back in the presence of these amazing young Women of the Word, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead and mentor them."

Katie Wilson most recently served as the Upper School Assistant Principal at Visitation Academy of St. Louis. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Spring Hill College, a master's degree in biology from the University of South Alabama, and an Educational Leadership Specialist Degree from St. Louis University. Wilson officially began her new duties as IWA's principal on June 22, 2020.

7 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT Katie Van Deven Wilson '01

1. What makes a "good day" at school? School is the best place to be and every day I am in the building it is a good day! The student, faculty, and staff energy is contagious. I enjoy the hustle and bustle in the hallways, the conversation in classrooms, and greeting each other with positivity. The atmosphere is electric, and it energizes me.

2. What is your favorite thing about your career? The best thing about my career is that I am able to support young women and educators each day. I have the amazing opportunity to get to know students on a deep level and work with them to achieve their goals. I also get to work with passionate educators, innovate classroom activities, and problem-solve. I know I have the best job!

3. If you weren't a principal, what would you be doing? I would own a home and gift boutique called "Kate's Corner" similar to Swoozies. Or I would operate a multi-acre dog park open year round with special features: an indoor running arena so dogs could enjoy the "outdoors" during the winter, and a pool so dogs could enjoy swimming in the summer.

4. What is your favorite IWA memory? I have so many memories, but I think my favorite memory was senior year talent show when a huge group of friends joined together to perform *Sister Act*. We brought the house down and were asked to perform again at the auction in the spring.

5. If you could take students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them? Why? I would take the students to the Galapagos Islands to follow in Charles Darwin's footsteps! What can I say? I am a biologist at heart!

6. Were you given a "Senior Superlative" when you graduated from IWA? Yes, my senior superlative was "Most Likely to Succeed." I think my class knew I would be back to work at IWA!

7. What is the IWA sport or activity that you look forward to watching most? I am most excited to watch tennis because I played, but I enjoy all sports. I am also looking forward to the theatre performances, choir concerts, and art shows.

