

Welcoming New Faces

With dedicated leadership for our Primary and Lower School grades, our school is positioned to strengthen our parent partnerships, attention to each student, and support of our talented faculty. I'm excited for our Preschool 2s - Kindergarten families and faculty for the addition of Lisa Dods to our team, and for our 1st - 4th grade families and faculty for the addition of Heather Williams. Both women are experienced, skilled, and beautifully aligned with the mission of St. Mark's and can't wait to integrate into our community. Please join me in giving them a warm welcome!

-Garhett Wagers

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Lisa Dods

Head of Primary School
Preschool 2s through
Kindergarten

Lisa is a native Houstonian, beginning her educational life as a student at Pooh Corner at age 3, followed by St. John's School. She is a third generation educator. Her grandfather taught Latin and Spanish at St. John's, and her father was a model for being a caring dedicated leader as Middle School Head and Head of School. From her years attending independent schools, and these influential people in her life, she's inspired to instill common values and build character within our community. Through her career, Lisa has taught preschool, 1st grade, and 2nd grade, beginning in Houston until she relocated to the Kansas City area in 1990. Lisa has been married for 35 years to her college sweetheart, and they have three young adult children.

As a teacher and school leader she's experienced independent schools, public schools, early learning centers, and private corporate learning spaces. Lisa served as Director at Top Flight Kids Learning Center (Olathe, Kansas) and MacKids Learning Academy (Kansas City, Missouri) respectively for the past 11 years.

Lisa earned her B.A. in Sociology and Elementary Education with a Kindergarten Endorsement from Trinity University. She just completed a six year term on

the Board of Directors for Mid America AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children), serving as Membership Chair, Curriculum Institute Co-Chair, and Treasurer. She's a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and was instrumental in earning its re-accreditation at Top Flight Kids.

Lisa loves the beach, gardening and antiquing. She is an avid college basketball fan, rooting loyally for the University of Kansas Jayhawks. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we welcome Lisa Dods as our Head of Primary School for the 2020-21 school year.



Heather Williams

Head of Lower School
1st through 4th Grade

With a rich experience working with young people, in school, summer programs, and camps, Heather Williams began her career as a Professional Development Training Coordinator at Connections Center in Houston. In 2009-10, she worked here at St. Mark's on our extended programs team, and served as a long term substitute in the classroom. Heather spent 6 years at Holy Spirit Episcopal School as a classroom teacher and eventually as Dean of Students.

She was appointed Head of School at

Wesley Academy in 2016 and served three years until Wesley merged with Ascension Episcopal School. Through the 2019-2020 school year, Heather served as Associate Head of School at Ascension Episcopal. Among Heather's leadership roles, she has also served the DeBusk Foundation as the West Houston DECATS Director since 2012.

Heather earned her B.S. in Sociology from the University of Houston and her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Northcentral University. She has training and experience in Responsive Classroom, Developmental Design, and Differentiation in the Mixed Ability Classroom, and is also Gifted and Talented Certified. During our interviews with Heather, we were excited by her steadfast focus on the learner and her emphasis on compassion, her commitment to listening to students, and her dedication to lifelong learning.

Although she grew up in a small town in central Texas, Houston has been Heather's home for 19 years. She has been married to Byron for 13 years, and they have two daughters, Naomi and Sadie. As a family, they enjoy exploring new spots in the city, or playing at the beach, camping, biking, singing, and making ice cream at home. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we welcome Heather Williams as our Head of Lower School for the 2020-21 school year.