

*A Katy Magazine feature highlighting
the hard work of Katy ISD principals*

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under the roof of King
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- Tammi Wilhelm

Tammi Wilhelm began
serving as the principal at
King Elementary in 2010

The Queen of King Elementary

**Principal Tammi Wilhelm makes it a point to look for
opportunities to show students that they are valued and loved**

Written by Meagan Clanahan | Photography by Anetrius Wallace

Beloved by students and the staff alike, Tammi Wilhelm is continuously on the lookout for innovative ideas to instill a love of learning, along with good old-fashioned bonding with “her kids.”

Planting Seeds

Born and raised in Seguin, Texas, Wilhelm fully credits her parents for her passion for education and learning at an early age. “My parents were always so supportive of my sister and myself in school. They were involved in everything,” she says. “They did PTA, traveled for band trips, and constantly had books.” After finishing high school, she graduated from Southwest Texas State University with a bachelor’s in elementary education where she met her now husband, Steve, a dedicated firefighter for the City of Sugar Land. A master’s degree in educational management would soon follow from the University of Houston Clear Lake.

Roots in Katy

Wilhelm moved to Katy and in 1991, began her educational path at Cimarron Elementary as a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher. She then moved to Alexander Elementary where she honed her assistant principal skills, and later served as assistant principal at Franz Elementary. In late 2010, she was called up to serve as principal of Robert King Elementary (RKE) and hasn’t looked back since. “I’m incredibly vested in Katy ISD,” says Wilhelm. “I’ve seen the growth; I’ve been a part of the changes. I’m so incredibly proud of Katy and feel honored to be in this role I’ve been blessed with.”

Encouraging Growth

Of course, with the tremendous growth of Katy, specific challenges arise. Wilhelm works every day to maintain and cultivate the small-town family feel that Katyites adore, while keeping up with the latest education innovations. Her focus remains on reaching out to the community and cultivating relationships with her students as they are her number one priority. “I tell parents this all the time. I love working with the children here,” she says. “When they are here, under the roof of King Elementary, I love them like my own children. I try to make decisions that are in their best interest.” From high-fives and fist bumps in the hallway, to

celebrations on their morning broadcast channel (KBC), students know that she isn’t a principal to be feared, but instead a confidant and their biggest supporter.

Opportunities to Grow

Staff and students gently tease Wilhelm about being the “Queen of King.” And she fully embraces that role throughout the many special programs and tributes at the school. From Royal Raves highlighting thanks and positive recognitions to the highly esteemed “Royal Court” which

bestows honor on one child from each grade level per month; King Elementary weaves pride into every aspect of the school. They even have a Knightly Citizenship Award where specific students are set to be Royals for the day, jeweled crowns firmly in place. Most importantly, the queen’s office is a soft place to land where Wilhelm has been known to have coffee clubs with the students while letting



them laugh, share, and know that they are respected and loved. “I want them to believe learning is important,” she shares. “I want them to look for opportunities to grow, to be that knight if you will. I want nothing more than for them to succeed.” **KM**

WILHELM WINS

- Loves to travel with her husband, especially to Hawaii
- Ideal day would include pajamas, sleeping late, baking pies and cookies, and spending time with her family in Seguin, with a book in hand
- Is a mom to two sweet fur-babies, Baxter and Gordon
- Loves Starbucks and always has a coffee cup in hand

