



Katie Wilke – Acting Principal
Ana Escobedo – Office Manager

Lakewood Family,

As Acting Principal, I welcome everyone back for another great year of learning and growing! While we are still a few weeks away from greeting students, the staff is already preparing to welcome our Stallions home.

Just as our physical structure undergoes a makeover, the Lakewood Elementary community is building on past success and constructing an even stronger future. As we continue the traditions of academic excellence, mutual respect, and life-long learning, I am thrilled to lead the dynamic and talented staff to serve you and your students. Even during the transitions of leadership and construction in the building, this community demonstrates an incredible unity and support during challenging times. That is exactly what we will continue to do!

Many of you know me already, but for those of you who don't, I'd like to introduce myself and my philosophy. As a spirited Aggie, I graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Education. Immediately following graduation, I returned to San Antonio to teach language arts. I humbly worked alongside and learned from the very educators who so wonderfully prepared me for college. A few years later I married my high school sweetheart and moved to Dallas. I joined the inaugural staff at Ann Richards Middle School, beginning my career in DISD. My experiences revealed the striking gaps and inequities in our educational system, motivating me to dive into various leadership positions. I went on to serve as Instructional Coach in the district, honing my ability to improve student outcomes through teacher development and coaching. My love for the work led me to pursue my master's degree from SMU in Educational Leadership with an Urban School Specialization. While completing my degree, I worked as Assistant Principal at E.L. Degolyer Elementary and Interim Principal at H.C. Withers Elementary School, arriving at Lakewood last fall. As an educator, I strive to create equitable educational opportunities—in experiences and outcomes—for all students. I am excited that my work as Acting Principal aligns my values and beliefs as a professional and individual with the work I do every day.

As much as I live and breathe my work, I enjoy spending time with extended family and relaxing at home with my puppy, one-year-old daughter, and husband. Family is essential to who I am—which makes me honored to be part of the Stallion family.

As you plan for the upcoming year, remember that our instructional hours are 7:45am-2:55pm. Also, mark your calendars for August 25th from 11am-12pm for our annual "Meet the Teacher" event, an opportunity to tour the building and meet our staff. Scheduled by grade level for September 5-7th, our "Back to School Info Nights" provide additional information regarding curriculum and classroom expectations. We continue to use the Remind App to share in-the-moment communication. Please register by texting @8c9877 to 81010 or through the following link: <https://www.remind.com/join/8c9877>

The entire Lakewood staff and myself look forward to seeing you and your students again soon! As we collaborate to serve our students, I really want to hear from you. Please come say hi, stop by my office, or contact me at any time. Together, we create the foundation and framework for our students' futures!

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