



# History

In 1913, a group of Central West End parents opened a kindergarten for four year olds. They asked Mabel Wilson, a well-known and highly respected kindergarten teacher, to be the director. The development of the Wilson-Froebelian Kindergarten was very successful.

- Located initially in the 5100 block of Westminster, in 1917 the school moved to the 5400 block of Delmar Boulevard.
- Upon Miss Wilson's death in 1924, the school was taken over by Elsie Beck, who added three primary grades to Wilson School.
- In 1958, Mrs. Jane Breckner succeeded Miss Beck as headmistress. Two years later, Mrs. Breckner moved the school to its current location at 400 DeMun in Clayton. The noted architect, William B. Ittner, designed the building, now designated a historic landmark.
- In 1968, the Wilson School Corporation, a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization governed by a Board of Trustees, was formed.
- In 1974, the Board appointed Verna Stassevitch, a well-respected music teacher, as headmistress. During her tenure, Wilson School became a fully accredited member of Independent School Association of the Central States (ISACS).
- In 1991, the Wilson School underwent its first addition to the historic building, adding fifty percent more space on two levels.
- Upon Verna Stassevitch's retirement in 1994, Dr. Eugene D. Ruth, Jr. was appointed headmaster. Under his leadership, the historic old section of the school underwent immediate and major remodeling.
- By 2004, the school was positioned to undergo its second significant addition and renovation. This process resulted in a full reorganization of the lower level, including a new art room, science lab, and foreign language classroom. In addition, Wilson was able to add a new lunchroom, library, technology lab, gymnasium and field turf playground.
- In 2006, Mr. Thad Falkner, former teacher and administrator, followed Dr. Ruth as head of school.



Mabel Wilson

since **1913** exceptional educators • classic instruction • innovative methods • nurturing environment

