

After 3 years teaching at Willowville, I knew I was a pretty good teacher for most students, but I was so troubled by the fact that I wasn't a good teacher for *everyone*. Some of my students, no matter how many times and how many methods I tried to teach certain concepts, still did not understand. I knew that there was something inhibiting their learning, and I thought that if maybe I understood more about how the brain worked and more about the learning process, then maybe I could teach in such a way that all students would be successful in the classroom. It was about then that I learned about the Harvard Graduate School of Education graduate program "Mind, Brain, and Education," which focuses its work at the intersection of cognitive science and neuroscience and their impact on teaching and learning. I applied and was accepted to the program, and a year later I was off to Cambridge.

The program was one of the most difficult and gratifying things I have ever done. I learned so much about so many things and also how what I do know is really only the surface level of what could be known. I was initially star struck to take classes with education greats like Howard Gardner, but by the end of the year I realized that all of us—well-known theorists and idealist students alike were all just trying to better education in our own way.

After Harvard I married and moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where I worked in a rural (like literally surrounded by cornfields rural) school first as a teacher, then as an instructional coach (coaching teachers how to teach more effectively) and gifted and talented coordinator. In 2014 I started working for Madison Metropolitan School District in an intercity school as a learning coordinator in charge of data (teacher effectiveness data, student behavior data, and student achievement data) and professional development.

Last October my husband was given the option of a transfer with his medical records software company to the Netherlands. Deciding to move was a big decision, but not really a difficult decision: We enjoy traveling and experiencing different cultures, we want our children (ages 3 and 6) to grow up with cultural understanding and develop foreign language skills, and I have a job that can be done anywhere. So we decided to go for it. We moved in January of last year. It was quite an adjustment at first, but we really love it.

At the beginning of this school year I started working for the International School of Eindhoven as a literacy coordinator and a group 7 teacher. After being out of the classroom for 4 years in leadership roles, it has been nice to transition back to the classroom and find that I can follow the teaching advice I have been giving other teachers (thank goodness!). My children attend the same school and they love it as well.

The best part of my job is teaching and working with people from all over the world. The students in my class are from India, Japan, Thailand, Norway, England, United States, Spain, France, UAE, and the Netherlands. Every single day I learn something new about another culture, whether it is language, beliefs, religion, celebrations, or

educational systems. I am building an understanding that I am so thankful for and it will only help me become a more thoughtful educator.