



Lauren Wiggins

My first role as a teacher was in my parents' home, as a young child. I would set up my Fischer Price desk, sit my stuffed animals at it, and have them complete ditto sheets that I gladly took from my teachers at the end of the school year.

I continued my love of teaching when I was selected to work every afternoon in a 4th grade classroom during my senior year in high school. Then, as a sophomore in college, I learned about a company called Mad Science. I was offered a job where I was able to practice my classroom management skills, while learning and teaching fun science classes in after school programs and at birthday parties. This was the perfect job for a college student pursuing a teaching degree.

I received my BS in psychology, with a minor in elementary education, from Sacred Heart University (SHU) in 2000. While a student at SHU, I was a member of the varsity ice hockey and field hockey teams and captained both teams. My freshman year I was also a member of the men's JV baseball team. I lost NCAA eligibility for baseball my sophomore year when I signed a contract with a professional women's baseball team. Think of the movie, *A League of Their Own!* That was me.

In 2001 I received my masters degree in teaching from SHU and then completed my student teaching at Six to Six Magnet School in the fall of 2001 in a 4th grade classroom.

After completing my student teaching I took two years to play semi-pro ice hockey in Toronto, Canada as a member of an NWHL team. During those two years, I continued working for Mad Science of Toronto.

Upon my return to the US and Connecticut, I became a daily sub in North Haven public schools, had a long term position at Six to Six as a health/PE teacher for 5th-8th grades, then I was a special ed para in Westport, followed by a 2nd grade long term substitute position in East Hartford.

I was finally hired full time by Six to Six Magnet School as a 5th grade teacher in January of 2007. I worked at this school teaching 5th, 2nd, and 3rd

grades until August of 2021 when I took the leap to start United School of Achievement.

I truly believe there is a better way to teach our children than the ways public schools demand, in their one size fits all approach. I do believe in an integrated approach to learning rather than isolating subjects. And I feel there needs to be more flexibility in classrooms to extend a lesson or cut it short when appropriate. There is much more I could tell you about myself and my teaching philosophy, but I hope you will reach out if you would like to learn more about me and the program. I look forward to hearing from you!