



Anja Kade comes to the Institute of Science and Math with 20 years of experience in biological field research in a variety of ecosystems, ranging from blazing deserts to boot-sucking tidal flats to desolate polar tundra. Born in Berlin, Germany, Anja first arrived in the United States as a graduate student and received her M.S. in Ecology at Colorado State University in 2001. For the past 13 years, Anja has enjoyed life in Fairbanks, where she earned her Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2006 and conducted her postdoctoral research in terrestrial carbon exchange in the remote foothills of the Brooks Range.

Anja's main interest lies in experiential education, and she has combined her passion for biology and active learning by developing and instructing several hands-on science courses to college and high-school students since 2006. For example, her innovative Field Course in Arctic Science effectively bridged classroom instruction and field experience while connecting students to a current critical research project in climate-change studies. Anja assists students with discovery by raising each student's curiosity and her students enjoy her sometimes unconventional, creative teaching techniques: Anyone who has acted out "realized niche" or "autotrophic respiration" in her charade game is likely to retain the information!

Outside of teaching, Anja enjoys outdoor adventures, such as backpacking with mosquitoes in the summer and skiing under the northern lights. She loves baking cookies with her husband, singing German lullabies to her toddler son and petting the dogs in front of the fireplace.