



**“I believe the most successful thing I have done is help inspire students to question the facts as presented and to form their own opinions.”**



# Dorothy Jordan



## Teaching Philosophy:

I once believed more in the stimulus-response way of learning, and through the years realized that with

all the outside forces at work on a student in a classroom that learning is more internal than external. Language and culture play a large role in how learning happens. **Culture is the way of life and the summation of learned behavior patterns and attitudes.** I have questioned my own learning and found methods to retrieve learning. Besides teaching them a skill, I would teach them how to recall and remember a concept. This would require them to break concepts down into what they understood, or the opposite. Children need to be taught what is the purpose of learning and to see the end results as a goal. This can be problematic when children struggle to see the end of the day. However, **when children learn that learning is for their purpose, they more willing apply themselves.** It is not a magic solution. I had one student who I worked with for three years before he stayed after school to complete an assignment. It was a day to celebrate.

As educators, we are expected to teach our students so they can pass the standardized tests, and State-required assessments. I had a teacher tell me recently that children were expected to sit down and learn. This is true of a normal child with a support system with all their assets in place. Unless a child is extremely resilient, there are going to be days in which the teacher will need

## *Nikolai, Iditarod Area*

to restate and ask questions to give direction.

**Advice for Students: Stay in school and visualize where you see yourselves one year from now, then five, and ten and so forth.** Looking into the future is a skill we dwell on in schools, and many times it is not taught at home. Talk to your parents about what they see you doing in those years, especially if you are going to depend on them for support. Parents will play a key role in helping you complete school. I worked hard to make myself be successful and not be dependent on someone else. I also know that I was committed to doing well and passing on knowledge to people of my own culture.

**Personal Passion:** Reading has always been my passion, and as I get older, my passion centers more about friends and family.

**Creative Teaching:** I believe the most successful thing I have done is help inspire students to question the facts as presented and to form their own opinions.

**Reason for Teaching:** It is exciting and it keeps me passionate about learning. I chose teaching because I enjoyed it. Now I do it because I like the students I work with and like seeing them grow. I like the challenge of helping them to look at their choices.



**Educator Nomination Submitted by the Shageluk Future Educators of Alaska Club**

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