



# Mary Huntington

*Shaktoolik, Bering Strait*

**Don't let other people's attitudes stop you from doing what you want!**



Credit: Angela Alston

Mary Huntington is a wonderful teacher who was born in Nome, Alaska and raised in Shishmaref. When she was in school she thought some goals were just too big, but after some educators helped her to work on big issues for community improvement and fixing problems, she realized they really were achievable. **She decided to become a teacher because she wanted to be able to help show students that they can make a difference and that goals aren't too big.** Mary enjoys teaching because she loves learning and she loves it when she can show students how to do complicated stuff and make it seem easy for them, like when we were learning the distance formula in math class.

Her teaching philosophy has changed over the years to meet the needs of her students each particular year. **Mary's advice for students is "don't let other people's attitudes stop you from doing what you want". Just because someone says you can't or it will be too hard, don't believe them. If you want to do it you should do it.**

Mary has lots of personal passions she brings to teaching. She loves math, music, using cultural knowledge like dancing, sewing, Eskimo language, and being a villager so she knows how to explain things at the level of her students. **She loves to think like her students and figure out original ways to make them understand the material. Mary uses creative teaching methods to communicate with students on a personal level.** She works hard to find ways to integrate learning with traditional knowledge, like using language and culture in the classroom. She has noticed that students respond and behave better when they are spoken to in their native language or even just using their Eskimo name. The students are not fluent speakers of the language - they often don't understand what she says at first, but they perk up and show interest.



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

**Future Educators of Alaska**

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