

“Education is learning to survive and succeed in both worlds, in our own culture and in the Western culture.”



Wilma Miklahook

Savoonga, Bering Strait

Wilma Miklahook has helped educate the children of Savoonga for 33 years. She first worked at Savoonga Headstart in the three- and four-year-old program for 6 years, 1975-1981. She then transferred to Hogarth Kingeekuk Memorial School where she worked from 1981-2008. **Wilma works hard to show children the value of education and the importance of knowing their Siberian Yupik Culture and Language.** She initiated and organized many cultural activities school-wide. In each activity Wilma did an outstanding job of tying BSSD standards to her cultural activity. **Wilma has high expectations for each student, and she would not accept anything less than the student's best.** Wilma decided to teach because she enjoyed working with the three- and four-year-olds at Headstart. From there she decided to move up to teaching at the Elementary level to continue to help the students learn.

Wilma also took education seriously in her own life, and spent many years pursuing an AA degree in General Education through long-distance education, finally receiving it in 1989. Wilma gave tirelessly of herself, spending long hours creating lessons, working with classroom teachers, helping students on cultural activities and much more. She was always willing to volunteer to help support school activities. **Wilma's teaching philosophy is that all people need to have an education, and she advised students to aim for the following:**

- Keep going to school.
- Always have respect for teachers and others.
- Keep learning.
- Don't lose your language and culture.
- Always listen to older people.
- Respect Elders.
- Listen to teachers.

Overall, Wilma enjoys teaching students their native language and culture. She enjoyed speaking to them in their native language and helping students learn.



Educator Nomination Submitted by the Savoonga Future Educators of Alaska Club

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