

## More on Norma Runfola

I grew up on the Bering Sea coast in a rural village called Scammon Bay, Alaska. My first language is Yup'ik. When I was growing up my family and I lived off the land and the sea. We fished, hunted, and gathered year-round in preparation for the seasons. We spent summers at fish camp catching herring and salmon. We went home to Scammon Bay at the end of summer and picked berries until it was time to go back to school. During the school year we hunted and fished. We would spend lots of time ice fishing, or setting nets and traps under the ice to catch our fish. I also helped my father with his traplines. My grandmother taught me how to sew skins. I make fur parkas, hats, and sealskin boots, thanks to all that I learned from her. My husband and I have been living in Fairbanks for more than 20 years. We have three children and four grandkids. I taught our children how to hunt and fish and gather foods from the wilderness, and how to take care of our food throughout the year. We still work hard to live off the land today, even though we're in town very far from where I grew up. I graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2010 and received my BA in Art with a minor in General Education. I started with the school district in 2012 when I worked at Joy Elementary as a Special Education Aide in an Intensive Resource classroom. I've also worked as a SPED IR Aide at Anne Wien Elementary and Tanana Middle School. Even though that was sometimes a very challenging job, there's nothing more rewarding than helping some of our most precious students. I was hired as the Denali ANE Tutor in November of 2018. I really enjoy my job there. Working with the ANE students at Denali has been a great experience in so many ways. I love teaching them about my traditions and learning about theirs. I look forward to another great school year working with students and their families and the other ANE and Denali staff.