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## **American Sign Language I**

**Welcome to American Sign Language I!** You are now off on a wonderful new adventure of learning for this coming year. This class will provide you with an opportunity to build and strengthen your skills in American Sign Language and provide more cultural awareness of the American Deaf Community.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Fingerspelling of the alphabet
2. Counting numbers 1-1,000
3. Having the ability to introduce oneself
4. Understand basic sentence types
5. Ability to engage in exchanging personal information
6. Discussion of space
7. Explanation of family tree
8. Have conversations about everyday activities

### **Units of Study**

- Getting to Know You
- Exchanging Personal Information
- Discussing Living Situations
- Talking about Family
- Discussing Schedules and Activities
- Story Telling

### **Classroom Expectations:**

- Arrive to class on time every day.
  - Students should arrive to class early to have the appropriate amount of time to clean off their desks and sit in their assigned seat.
- Face masks should be worn at all times in the classroom.
- Students should practice social distancing from the instructor and fellow classmates at all times.
- Students should not share their login information or passwords with others.

- Students should put all electronic devices away unless instructed by the instructor for classroom instruction.
- Upon arriving in class, students should place their cellphone in the phone charging station to their assigned number.
- Once class begins you should not be voicing (you may sign to each other).
- Student desks should be clear of backpacks or personal items in order to have adequate sign space.
- Maintain a clean classroom and pick up after yourselves.
- Students should dress appropriately for instruction sessions. There should be no use of hats, headphones, and sunglasses during class sessions.
- Food and drinks are not to be consumed during a class session.
- Students who use inappropriate language, share inappropriate images, or in any way behave inappropriately will be subject to appropriate discipline.
- Students should arrive to class on time with materials including chromebooks, notebook, agenda, pens, pencils, and paper.
- Students should always maintain a positive attitude toward yourself, others, assignments, and activities.
- All communication will be conducted in ASL (unless otherwise stated)
- If you have an emergency or need special accommodations due to a health condition, family situation or special circumstance notify the instructor as soon as possible.

**Deaf Culture Project:** Each semester you must complete one Deaf Culture Project. For this assignment you will attend a virtual event preapproved by the instructor or read a book/ watch a film from a preapproved list that will be provided. After you attend a virtual event, read a book, or watch the movie you will write a response paper about the experience. The prompt will be posted on google classroom with further description on this project. The Deaf Culture Project is worth a total of 10% of your final grade; not completing this project could result in lowering your final grade by a full letter! The project is designed to provide you with more exposure of Deaf Culture and expand your understanding of the Deaf Community and American Sign Language.

**Grading Policy:** Grades will be a combination of participation, presentations, classwork, quizzes, projects and a variety of tests. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to turn in all necessary assignments in a timely manner. If the required assignment is incomplete you must obtain, fill out, and turn in the *Homework Responsibility Form*. Grades earned in this class are A, B, C, D, and F. To pass this class, you must earn a 70% or higher. ASL I is a world language course that advances students to take ASL II, therefore the grading standards are set high yet achievable.

**Grade Break Down:**

Comprehension Assessments = 25%

Articulation Assessments = 35%

Deaf Culture Project = 10%

Homework & Projects = 15%

Classwork = 15%

**Grade Scale**

A= 100-90

B= 89-80

C= 79-70

D= 69- 60

F= 59- 0

**Electronic Devices:** I understand the need for constant communication with friends and family who are not as fortunate to be in our wonderful ASL class. However, during class any cell phones, smartphones, music devices, and smartwatches will not be allowed.

**Redoing Assignments & Late Work:** Late work for quizzes and projects will only be accepted up to two weeks after the due date. Redo presentations and comprehension assessments must be conducted during office hours. Any late homework that is received will be given a 50% deduction in grade. Students can redo any homework or assessment for a higher grade within two weeks. Students must wait 48 hours before attempting to retake an assignment. Written finals are not subject to retakes. **No makeup work (retakes or missing assignments) will be accepted for the last three weeks of each semester.**

**Missing work:** In the situation, a student is absent from class and was unable to complete classwork there will be two outcomes. If the student has an excused absence verified with the attendance office, they will receive an NA for the assignment. This means the assignment will not affect their overall grade negatively or positively. If the student has an unexcused absence they will receive a 0 on the assignment. Students will be

held responsible for making up missing assessments within two weeks of the assignment due date. They will need to make arrangements with the instructor directly to schedule a time.

**Remind:** During our course, I will be sending reminders to you through the Remind App. Make sure you and your parents have signed into our classroom in order to receive important dates and information.

**Pocket Points:** For this school year we will be using an app called Pocket Points. This app monitors your phone use during our class time. If you and your fellow classmates can stay off your phone during class time, you will be able to earn rewards. These rewards include homework passes, dropping the lowest quiz score.

**Google Classroom:** Throughout our course we will be using google classroom as a forum to communicate, interact, and turn in work. Each student is required to be able to have access to google classrooms in order to turn in projects and receive weekly announcements as well as reminders.

*“As long as we have deaf people on earth, we will have signs,” - George Veditz*

## American Sign Language I

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian:

Your student is currently enrolled in American Sign Language I class, ASL is a visual language used by the American Deaf Community. In this class your student will be learning ASL vocabulary, grammar and structure, idioms and much more. They will also be learning about the American Deaf Culture and how it influences ASL, to do this successfully each semester a **Deaf Culture Project** is required. This requires your student to read a book or watch a film from a preapproved list regarding the Deaf Community and Deaf Culture.

*Comments or Concerns:*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Contact (Phone Number or Email)

I have read the course syllabus and agree to comply with all classroom guidelines.

*Comments or Concerns:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature