

Grant Middle School
Enrichment Class: American Sign Language
Mr. Croghan: <http://mrcroghan.wikispaces.com/>
Fridays from 1:30-2:30

Course Description:

American Sign Language (ASL) has a rich history in the United States. It is the primary language for the deaf community within the US and parts of Canada. Current estimates indicate that between 100,000 and 500,000 people use ASL regularly. Our goals in this class are to 1) be able to learn and communicate in a foreign language and 2) actively promote sensitivity and awareness to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. This class will start from the basic structures of sign language and move up to simple sentences. You'll learn the alphabet, number signs, animal signs, seasonal and holiday signs, simple sentences and beginning conversational ASL.

Course Syllabus:

Below is a table that will show you how I intend the course to flow. Use this to help you guide your practice. This lesson outline may be changed at my discretion.

Week	Lesson
1	Introductions, Alphabet and Numbers 1-10, classroom signs
2	Review: Practice Finger Spelling, More Numbers, Intro to sentences
3	Common Signs: Pronouns, verbs, greetings
4	Common Signs: Review pronouns, more verbs, food items
5	Common Signs: specific actions, locations, random signs from class discussions.
6	Animal, Seasonal and Temperature signs
7	Sentence Structure: Formal and Casual
8	Sentence Structure: Formal and Casual, Random signs from class discussions.

Course Expectations:

- Be respectful
- Work Cooperatively
- Practice*
- Do not rush the class or demand to learn signs before they are taught**

***Special Note on Practice:**

You will be expected to practice ASL and aim to be proficient on the previous lesson's signs. This does not mean that you need to make signing a burden, rather practice it on your own or by showing friends and family. The key to learning this language is to practice, and practice is always easier when you are having fun. While you will not receive a grade for this class, you will need to keep up on the signs so you can stay on track with your classmates. You will also be encouraged, but no required to find other resources to learn signs that are not covered in class.

****Special Note Behavior:**

While it is natural to be excited to learn something new, it is inappropriate to demand to learn a word or variety of words that I am not ready to show the class. Students wishing to learn additional words will be able to make requests by submitting them to me. I will compile the list and cover them with students on "random sign request" days (see weeks 5 and 8), or with the lesson in which I initially intended the sign to be taught.