

# Course Syllabus: American Sign Language 1/ 2

Mrs. Stephanie McKnight \* [stephaniemcknight@misdmail.org](mailto:stephaniemcknight@misdmail.org)

After reading all pages of the syllabus please fill out and return the parent / student acknowledgment / information sheet to Mrs. McKnight by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Course Description, Objectives and Goals: (1.5 Credits)

Welcome! You have chosen to continue your study of ASL. As you know, American Sign Language (ASL) is a unique language involving not only signed vocabulary used within a particular grammar structure but also a cherished culture including people of all ethnicities, backgrounds and professions who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

During the study of American Sign Language students will experience and evaluate ASL as it relates to communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities and how each relates to people who are Deaf. Students will be challenged to explore how each of these topics is similar to and/or different from their own culture and language. Upon successful completion of ASL 1, students will be eligible to enroll in ASL 2: upon successful completion of level 2, students will be eligible to enroll in ASL 3

**ASL 1** introduces basic structures of the sign language with an emphasis on listening (with eyes) and speaking (with the hands); students will acquire an extensive vocabulary, take part in practical conversations taken from ordinary situations of daily life, and tackle the skill of glossing English into sign and vice versa. Culture is an integral part of learning any language. The class will continue to improve its ASL skills and develop an appreciation for the language and the people who use ASL on a daily basis.

**In ASL 2** the communication skills acquired in Level I are extended to include distinguishing between variations in signs and non-manual communication. A more in-depth study of Deaf culture will be explored. Students will be provided opportunities to express and receive signed information in a variety of situations. The majority of instruction is given in A.S.L. Master ASL is the textbook used.

## Teacher Information:

Stephanie McKnight – Instructor of American Sign Language 1,2,3 & 4  
Contact information: 817-299-1900 & [stephaniemcknight@misdmail.org](mailto:stephaniemcknight@misdmail.org)  
Conference time 9:30-10:30

Degrees and certification:

- Stephen F. Austin State University- BS in Deaf Education
- Lamar University- MS in Deaf Education/ Deaf Studies
- State of Texas Certifications in Deaf Education, English, and American Sign Language

## Classroom Expectations:

My classroom will be a place of safety and respect **at all times**. I plan on students being successful in ASL and expect you to prepare for the same. The following expectations are in place to foster success in American Sign Language.

- **Be respectful**
- **Be prompt and prepared**
- **Be an active participant in class**
- **Abide by all school district, campus and classroom rules and expectations**
- **Use of all electronic devices** \*Follow MISD / BBCTA/FHS policy at all times. The teacher may take the device and a \$15 fee will be paid prior to the device being returned.
- **Students MUST wear the current ID** at all times while on campus and while attending any school activity/function.

## General Consequences:

If a student chooses not to follow district / class rules the following consequences will be enforced:

- Verbal Warning
- Removal from activity or classroom and student / teacher conference
- Phone call to parent
- Office referral \*Severe disruptions will result in an immediate office referral

### Other expectations:

- Watch and participate
  - In order to be successful in American Sign Language, you will need to be willing to try new activities. You have chosen to take a foreign language that is visual and active. Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone and take risks. I know you will enjoy my class and I guarantee you will learn to communicate with people who are Deaf while having fun if you follow these class procedures!
- Communication Procedures
  - Communication will be conducted using only American Sign Language. Students are expected to respond and communicate using the method initiated. “Voice Off” grades will be awarded according to compliance with this procedure.
- Videotaping
  - In accordance with District policy: “HH. Videotaping of Students” – Because ASL is a visual language, students will be videotaped during most projects and various activities / assignments. By signing the Parent / Student information sheet you confirm that you are not denying this permission unless otherwise indicated.  
These videos will be used for instructional use only and any publication of such media will only be used with prior written permission.

I expect all of my students will succeed. One key factor in success is *effort*.  
If you are participating in class, doing your homework, asking questions and practicing frequently, you will succeed!

### Foreign Language Grading Policy: \*variations may apply according to individual instructors

#### Six Week Grading:

40% Tests / Projects

30% Language- Receptive / Expressive (“Listening/Speaking”)

30% Culture/ Daily work / Homework / Participation /Quizzes (Quizzes will be weighted 2X)

= Six Week Average

Semester exams are 20% of the grade.

There will be at least 8 grades per six weeks. At least TWO of these grades will be a major assessment/test.

#### Test Retakes:

A student who fails a major test may retake a similar test under these circumstances:

- The student requests to re-take test and schedules an appointment.  
\*(This does not apply to the semester final exam.)
- The student arranges transportation to and from BBCTA/FHS for the retake
- The highest grade on any retake is 70%
- All retakes must be completed prior to the end of each six week grading period

#### Late Work:

Late assignments will be accepted **ONLY 1 class day** after the due date for a maximum grade of 70; after that a zero will be given. \*Please see me if you feel you have a **valid** extenuating circumstance. You will be asked to email your extension request to me at [stephaniemcknight@misdmail.org](mailto:stephaniemcknight@misdmail.org)

#### Absences/Make Up Work: (see Student Handbook)

It is the student’s responsibility to ask for, obtain, and complete assignments missed for any absence, including school activities. The work must be turned in 1 day after the student returns to class. Pending the number of days the student is absent, is the amount of days allowed for make up.

**\*\*Missing 20 minutes or more of any class results in an absence.**  
(see the student handbook for further details)

**Tardies – Ben Barber Times: AM: 7:00-9:30 PM: 11:25-1:45**

Students are expected to be prompt to class and to be in the classroom before the tardy bell rings.

If students are not in class when the tardy bell rings they will be counted tardy. Tardies will be recorded, and after the 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy, the following will be implemented.

- |  |  |
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| 4 <sup>th</sup> – office referral conference | 7 <sup>th</sup> – ISS                                    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> – detention                  | 8 <sup>th</sup> – two days of ISS                        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> – two detentions             | 9 <sup>th</sup> or greater – multiple days of ISS or BIC |

**Tutorials:**

I am available most afternoons by appointment for students who are wanting or needing additional assistance in ASL. Students who fail an exam or have been absent are encouraged to come to tutorials before making up assignments.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (see Student Handbook)

Academic dishonesty—cheating or plagiarism—is not acceptable. Cheating includes the copying of another student’s work—homework, class work, test answers, etc.—as one’s own or allowing another to borrow answers. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s original ideas or writing without giving credit to the true author. A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to loss of credit for the work in question, as well as disciplinary penalties, according to the Student Code of Conduct.

**District / Class APPS:**

Due to the nature of this subject there are certain apps I will require the students to use during the semester. Make sure these are downloaded on either the assigned iPad or smartphone. The main one will be Google DRIVE.

**Google Drive-** Homework , assignments, etc will be uploaded to g-drive. This includes videos and written assignments.

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit may be announced in class at various times. Students are responsible to follow all guidelines in order to earn extra credit. Students will be asked to record their extra credit, and supply documentation/ signatures of witnesses in attendance of activities.

You can earn extra credit by attending deaf events, ASL club hosted events, and other options will be discussed in class.

**Helpful A.S.L. Websites & Resources:**

- ASLpro.com
- YouTube.com
- DeafTV.com
- Lifefprint.com
- Textbook: Master ASL! \* Books may be checked out for additional study purpose.
- Various fiction / non-fiction books relating to ASL / Deaf Culture

**Below is a brief description of the semester. (Topics and dates subject to change)**

**ASL 1**

- What is American Sign Language? The Manual Alphabet. Numbers 1-100
- Greetings and Farewells.
- Introducing yourself and others.
- Learn basic ASL sentence structure.
- Asking and answering questions.
- How to interact appropriately with Deaf people.
- The role of facial expressions and non-manual signals.
- Understand iconic and non-iconic signs. Body Language

**ASL 2:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| - Review of ASL 1 vocabulary, sports and activities, | - animals                               |
| - daily routines, clothing                           | - making plans,                         |
| - describing people,home, community                  | - jobs                                  |
| - food   | - ASL 2 topics used within Deaf culture |

**Needed Supplies:**

**Please purchase and bring with you to class:**

- 2 pens / 2 pencils
- 1 box of tissue / Kleenex
- 1 spiral notebook
- a package of fine expo markers.

*After you and your parent / guardian have read this entire document,  
send an email to me confirming agreement and understanding to: [stephaniemcknight@misdmail.org](mailto:stephaniemcknight@misdmail.org)  
by the following date: \_\_\_\_\_*

Your support is integral in helping your son or daughter achieve success in my class!  
Please ensure that the signature form (below) is returned to me before Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>  
(to ensure your son/daughter receives a 100 quiz grade!).

[This portion is due to Mrs. McKnight NO LATER than Friday, August 30!]

**STUDENT NAME (Please print!):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**We have read and discussed this plan for success in American Sign Language.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Email\*:** \_\_\_\_\_