



**American  
Sign  
Language**

# American Sign Language Course Description:

To gain insight into American Sign Language and Deaf culture. Students will be able to sign and comprehend basic communication in ASL and extend communicating abilities beyond the classroom and into the real world.

# ASL Features you will learn:

**Eye Contact:** This is an important feature in ASL, it's used to make conversations go smoother. The students will practice looking into each other's eyes while signing. Your EYES are like your EARS!

**The Signing Space:** It's important that signs are centered to the right or left of your middle torso.

**Which Hand Do I Use?:** Sign with the hand that feels most comfortable and natural for you, which tends to be the hand with which you write.

# ASL Features you will learn:

**Facial Expressions:** Auditory information, such as tone of voice, emotion, and intent, must be made visual in ASL. Facial Expressions convey not only emotion and meaning but also ASL grammar: asking a general question (Are you learning ASL?) and WH-Face (who, what, when, where, why, and which).

**Precision:** Signing clearly is the same as speaking clearly.

**Fingerspelling:** Fingerspelling is an essential aspect of ASL, but it is not a substitute for signs you should learn.

Fingerspelling is used for specific purposes.

# Things to know when learning ASL

## The 5 parameters of ASL

Each ASL sign can be broken down and analyzed into 5 separate features called parameters. For a single sign to be correct, each of the five parameters must be used correctly. Below are explanations of these parameters with examples to help you understand the concept.

### The 5 Parameters

- HANDSHAPE
- PALM ORIENTATION
- LOCATION
- MOVEMENT
- NON-MANUAL SIGNALS

# ASL Typical Class Schedule:

Attendance, check in

Warm up - review

Teaching content

Class activities and practice

Each unit will have a quiz, one-on-one, and project.

No Homework. You will do the project or assignment during the class period.

# ASL Class:

## ASL 1

Greeting and Introduction  
WH - Question and colors  
Personal and Background  
Family  
Physical Descriptions  
School Life  
Classroom

## ASL 2

When  
Weather and Season  
Food  
Daily Routine  
School Routine  
Clothing and Accessories

## ASL 3/4

Nature and Wildlife  
Health  
Food Ordering  
Food Cooking  
Career/Major in College  
School Activities

