Welcome

**American Sign Language 2 & 3**

**Mrs. Alia Sanchez**

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| --- |
| Monday-Thursday 7:30 am - 8:40 am or WIN |
| or after school by appointment |

**Tutoring:**

8:45am to 10:00am

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Conference:**alia.sanchez@comalisd.org  |  |  |
| **Email:** |  |  |

Thank you for choosing American Sign Language. I am very excited to have you in my class this year. Below I have explained my expectations and goals for our class room community. In order to reach our language acquisition goals, everyone must have a clear understanding and should abide by what is expected of them.

**HEADS UP!**

This class is different from other language classes. If you enrolled thinking this will be an easy “A”, you are highly mistaken. American Sign Language is a complex visual language. It will require you to push yourself outside your own cultural norms.

ASL is very different from any other spoken language. You use your hands, face, lips, shoulders and space around you to communicate! You MUST actively participate.

**CHALLENGES YOU WILL FACE IN ASL**



You will be expected NOT to use your voice while inside the classroom. You may SIGN, Gesture, draw, write, fingerspell, but you cannot VOICE! See no voice policy for further detail.



* You will be expected to maintain constant eye contact with your peers and teacher. Not keeping eye contact is the same as plugging your ears in a spoken language class!



You will spend a lot of time filming yourself signing, appearing on camera, and signing in front of the class, so **don’t be shy**! Technology is a great tool, I will utilize your videos in order to give you feedback and grade your expressive skills. You will be able to view your videos to keep track of your progress. ALL videos will be uploaded in our google classroom under the assignment I create for it. I will NOT accept any other forms of videos.

**GRADING**

A 100 – 90 B 89 – 80 C 79 – 70 F 69 – 0

**GRADING CATEGORIES**

**45% Major Grades**  Tests, Projects with Presentational and Interpersonal signed and Interpreted Components

**35% Quizzes** Quizzes

**20% Daily Work & HW** Participation, Warm-ups, Class Activities, Use of ASL, Sub Work, Exit Slips

The three things you can do to ensure you earn good grades:

* Complete all assignments,
* Meet all deadlines, and
* Study in small “chunks” every day.

Per district policy, you may choose to redo or retake two graded assignments in the Quizzes and Daily Work and Homework category per grading period, within five days of the grade being posted. To do so, you must schedule an appointment with me. The higher of your two grades will be recorded as the actual grade. The redo / retake will be notated with the lower grade for parent notification.

If you are absent and miss graded assignments in any category, communicate with me to ensure you complete all missed work by the deadline established. Late policy will affect your grade, if it is not an excused absent.

If you miss a deadline, you may turn in your work late with the following penalties:

* one date late → 10% grade reduction
* two days late → 20% grade reduction
* more than two days late → 50%, and parents notified
* more than a week late will result in a zero recorded in the gradebook. Disputes will require face to face parent conference within the grading period.

**REMINDER!!**

The grades you earn are VERY important in high school. They are indicators of your progress, work ethic, study habits, interest and commitment. Grades also can be determining factors later in high school for eligibility in National Honor Society for scholarships, for part-time jobs, and as pre-requisites into higher level courses. Always do your best, and take pride in YOUR work.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is an essential part of a world languages course. Learning to communicate in another language is primarily an interactive process. Nothing can replace time spent interacting in our target language during class. Therefore, daily attendance is of the utmost importance.

**TARDIES**

Students are expected to be present and arrive on time each and every day. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in class when the tardy bell rings. An absent maybe recorded if you are more than 10 minutes late to class.

**HONORABLE EFFORTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students’ work should reflect honest effort and personal, independent thinking.

Cheating occurs in many ways, to include but not be limited to:

* Whispering answers your Deaf teacher cannot hear when her back is turned.
* Photographing, sharing or discussing assessment questions with other students;
* Copying from another student or his/her work while attributing it to oneself,
* Having someone with higher linguistic skills provide corrections or answers, etc.

Students who cheat will earn a 0 on the assignment, and parents/guardians will be notified. Additional consequences may be warranted. Cheating not only negatively impacts the opinions others have of you, it can also cost you NHS membership. Have respect and high expectations of yourself. You are smart. You can do this!

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS & BEHAVIORS**

**Be prompt** Class begins when the bell rings. Begin work on the Warm-Up (Bell work).

**Be ready** Review at home, daily. Learning ASL is fun … as well as hard work!

**Be positive** You may not enjoy everything we do, but a positive attitude goes a long way to ensure those who do have a great experience in class every day … including YOU!

**Be productive** Use class time only for ASL. Pay attention, and participate. Take risks! Help a friend. Bring focus and determination with you!

**Be polite** Respect the classroom, other students and their property, the teacher, and the instructional plan. You’ll reap what you sow. ☺

Students who disrupt the learning environment will receive the following consequences:

* First Offense: Warning
* Second Offense: Student conference with the teacher, parent notification
* Third Offense: Student detention with the teacher, parent notification
* Subsequent Offenses: Administrative referral, parent notification

**Course Objective**

The course objective is to view the Deaf world with an open mind. Acceptance for what makes its members different from the hearing world is strongly encouraged, and certainly expected.

**American Sign Language 2**:  continues the teaching of ASL, moving from signing concrete concepts to abstract concepts. Additional vocabulary, grammar and culture is covered to build on the core knowledge of the language. Both expressive and receptive skills of students will be the focus of the course, with an equal emphasis. Students will participate extensively in interactive classroom activities using the “Voices Off” Policy to ensure ASL immersion.

**American Sign Language 3:** is designed to further the development of created and planned language usage which is cultivated through contextualized discourse exercises between student-teacher, student-student and teacher narratives.  Creative usage of ASL in the form of poetry and storytelling is refined by students. Deaf cultural topics are included in each unit, to provide context for vocabulary units and to expand cultural perspectives and understandings.

**ASL 2 & 3 Goals:**

1. Develop and refine skills necessary to sustain communication in sign language.

2. Express grammatically correct sentences in American Sign Language.

3. Communicate using nonverbal expression to convey messages in sign.

4. Creatively express in ASL ie. stories, anecdotes, poetry and songs.

5. Gain an understanding of Deaf culture.

**CLASS PROCEDURES**

**Bells & Bell Schedules**

Bells indicate the start of class; you are expected to be in the room, ready to work, when the tardy bell rings. Bells also indicate the end of class, but Mrs. Sanchez dismisses you, not the bell. You will start your bell work as indicated on the overhead projector.

**Cell Phones / Electronic Devices\***

All iPads, tablets, phones, earbuds, electronic watches, and personal computers **will remain in your backpack**!

**ALL BACKPACKS**, will be placed in the back of the room. Your electronics must be silenced! If you are expecting an emergency call from a guardian, you must notify me at the beginning of class. You will put your flash alert on your phone and put it in an assigned cellphone holder on the wall. You will see when it goes off and you may notify me that you need to take your call. All voice calls will be in the hallway with consideration of low voice volume.

On occasion, I will ask students to use their cell phones \*for instructional purposes, but that will be rare.

Consequences if caught with unauthorized electronic:

* 1st offense → confiscated until the end of class
* 2nd offense → confiscated until the end of the day
* 3rd offense → confiscated, administration notified, device sent to office. You will need to pay $10.00 in order to get your device back. I will do your parents the favor and let them know about this incident.

**Name tags and notebooks**

You will create a name tag on card stock. Every day you will grab your name tag and notebook as you walk into class. Name tags will help me memorize names and take up attendance quickly. Notebooks you will need daily for warm ups and class work.



**Materials needed for this Class**

* A spiral notebook, OR a composition notebook
* Writing utensils (Pens, markers, colored pencils, pencils, highlighter).
* One Colored folder with pockets
* Clipboard
* Coffee (ha-ha just kidding, that’s for me)

**SIGNING IN ASL!**

We will be signing in ASL (target language) every day! It’s not only part of your grade, but it’s the best way to learn ASL! You may have to write me notes in the beginning, however I do want you to try your best to stay in the target language as much as possible. **Leave your voices at the door please!**

You can do this.  I have near infinite patience. I love teaching and explaining.  If you have questions, ask in class or just email them to me and I'll get back to you within 24 hours.  If you think I've overlooked your email, feel free to send your question again I won't feel bothered--rather I'll be grateful for the communication.  If there is something I can do to make the class better for you please do suggest it.  This class may be one of your more challenging accomplishments, but I know if you work hard and put in the time you will succeed.



Mrs. Sanchez

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American Sign Language

Levels 2 & 3