STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview
American Sign Language II

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Course Description:

Students continue to increase their skills in American Sign Language. They will add to their vocabulary and increase proficiency in grammatical features and conversational skills. Knowledge of and sensitivity to the Deaf culture and the community of Deaf people will continue to be emphasized. Students will be encouraged to interact with Deaf people in social contexts.

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Essential Skills and Processes: Students will –

- develop language skills in the areas of listening and speaking and be able to use target language skills for purposeful communication for interpretive, interpersonal and presentational tasks;
- develop an understanding of Deaf culture with emphasis on history, etiology of American Sign Language, educational trends, technology, and patterns of behavior;
- make connections between the study of the target language and other content areas;
- demonstrate understanding of the target language and culture by comparing them to their native language and culture;
- extend the knowledge of American Sign Language beyond the classroom into the community for recreational, educational and occupational purposes.

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Essential Knowledge: Students will –

Communication

- ask and respond to questions for clarification;
- express opinions and preferences regarding personal and school events and experiences;
- develop and propose solutions to issues and problems related to the school or community through group work;
- understand announcements and messages connected to daily activities at school or in the Deaf culture;
- understand the main themes and significant details on topics and products from other classes or from Deaf culture as presented on television, video or live presentations;
- comprehend the principle characters, main ideas, and themes in selected literary presentations;
- present short plays or skits to other students via live performance and/or video;
- prepare stories about school or personal experiences or events to share with peers.

Cultures

- discuss and analyze common beliefs and attitudes among members of the Deaf community;

- identify members of the Deaf community and its hierarchy and demonstrate knowledge of communication differences within the Deaf community;
- identify and learn about the role of organizations of the Deaf;
- analyze the influence of other signed languages and cultures of the world on American Sign Language;
- recognize and describe Deaf heritage by identifying the contributions made by people who are deaf in all aspects of life;
- analyze and compare opinions regarding American Sign Language as a language.

Connections

- discuss topics from other subject areas in American Sign Language;
- expand their knowledge of print and non print resources on deafness, the Deaf and American Sign Language to gather information;
- identify issues from different perspectives of members of the Deaf culture.

Comparisons

- analyze syntactical and linguistic similarities and differences between American Sign Language and other languages;
- demonstrate awareness of idioms and other figurative language within American Sign Language and compare them to idioms and other figurative language in their own language;
- analyze relationships between word order and meaning in American Sign Language and their own language;
- compare and contrast the Deaf culture with other minority cultures;
- compare and contrast heroes and heroines in the Deaf community with heroes and heroines in their own community;
- compare and contrast deaf education and its history with education in other communities;
- demonstrate awareness that they too have a culture based on their comparisons between the Deaf culture and their own culture.

Communities

- expand their knowledge of career opportunities and limitations, with critical review of legislation effecting career choices and accommodations;
- interact with members of the local Deaf community using American Sign Language;
- attend events in the school or broader Deaf community.

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Resources:

- http://www.aslta.org/
- http://beechasl.net/vaslta/
- http://www.masterstech-home.com/ASLDict.html
- http://everything2.com/index.pl?node=American%20Sign%20Language