STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview
American Sign Language Level I

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Course Description:

This course is designed to take students who have no knowledge of American Sign Language to the point where they can function comfortably in a wide range of situations in the Deaf community. Students will learn appropriate behaviors, showing awareness of and respect for Deaf culture. Deaf culture is taught through discussions, activities, readings, and videotape presentations. This is a performance-based course and the emphasis is on vocabulary and grammatical skills using the language.

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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 answer questions about family, school events and celebrations;
- share likes and dislikes with each other and the class;
- exchange essential information such as leave-taking, getting attention, and negotiating the signing environment using appropriate non-manual behaviors;
- give and follow simple direction and instructions;
- comprehend main ideas in appropriate signed narratives such as personal anecdotes or narratives based on familiar themes, in person or via videotape;
- identify people and objects in their environment based on signed descriptions;
- follow signed direction regarding familiar locations;
- prepare stories about activities or events in their environments and share these stories with an audience;
- understand and be able to sign an example of poetic and story telling devices in American Sign Language such as ABC stories.

Cultures

- demonstrate an understanding of American Sign Language as indigenous to the Deaf culture;
- observe, identify, discuss and use simple patterns of behavior for interacting in various settings such as greeting, leave-taking, attention getting and use of names;
- observe and discuss the historical and current role of technology in the Deaf culture;
- demonstrate awareness of Deaf heritage and identify major historical events and persons;
- identify and discuss the beginnings of American Sign Language, including foreign influences and important linguists;
- identify various educational settings for deaf students, historically and currently;
- recognize themes, ideas, or perspectives of the Deaf culture.

Connections

- demonstrate understanding of concepts learned in other subject areas in American Sign language;
- identify the use of technology to access and exchange information with and within the Deaf community;
- understand the concepts that are unique to the Deaf community and the implications for language learning;
- become aware of the perspective of the Deaf culture by reading or viewing publications or presentations.

Comparisons

- recognize differences and similarities between auditory languages and the visual/conceptual features of American Sign Language;
- compare the inflections used to communicate questions, negatives, and statements in American Sign Language with the inflectional patterns used in the students' own language;
- compare formal and informal forms of language in greetings and leave-taking in American Sign Language and their own language;
- identify signs that are "borrowed" in American Sign Language and in their own language and speculate on reasons for "borrowing";
- compare simple patterns of interaction in the Deaf culture and in their own culture.

Communities

- identify deafness related careers;
- communicate on a personal level with American Sign Language Users;
- attend school activities for the Deaf;
- use the language for enjoyment;
- attend or view media cultural events and social activities.

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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