Hello and welcome to American Sign Language (ASL) class. I’m excited to start a new year with you. This class requires you to use your creative side and open your mind to Deaf people and their culture. Not only will you learn ASL, you will also learn about Deaf history, culture, and their values and beliefs. This class is primarily taught in ASL.

Email: jlblackw@volusia.k12.fl.us
Course Number: 0717300
Subject: World Languages
(American Sign Language 1)
Instructor: Ms. Blackwelder

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

This class will focus on expressive and receptive skills in American Sign Language and an introduction to American Deaf culture. Weekly interactive activities allow you to rehearse what you’ve learned in class. In each unit we will be learning: Introduction; Unit 1-Welcome; Unit 2- Getting Started; Unit 3-Getting to Know You; Unit 4- Family and Friends; and Unit 5- School Days.

**TEXT:** Master ASL! Level One by Jason E. Zinza

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Notebook, Pencil/Pen, 3-ring binder (or folder)

**Additional Recommended Class Materials:**
pencils, pens, hand sanitizer, paper, tissues, ream of copy paper, and dry erase markers

**District Grading Scale:**
A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F 0-59%
**Weighting of Classes:**
Each assignment will be awarded a certain number of points and will fall into one of three categories: diagnostic, formative or summative. Diagnostics will be weighted 0% and will be used to determine what is already known. Formatives will be weighted 40% of the nine weeks and summatives will be 60% of the nine week grade.

**Course Outline**
1. Alphabet and Numbers
2. Handshapes
3. Fingerspelling
4. Master ASL Unit #1 Vocabulary and Structure
5. Equipment/Technology for the Deaf and HH
6. Interacting with Deaf People
7. Master ASL Unit #2 Vocabulary, Receptive Skills
8. Deaf History & Culture
9. Master ASL Unit #3 Vocabulary, Topic-Comment Structure
10. Famous Deaf People
11. Master ASL Unit #4 Vocabulary, Expressive NMM
12. Deaf Family & Friends- Dynamics
13. Master ASL Unit #5 Vocabulary, Time Spot, Multiple Meanings
14. Classifiers
15. Sentence Structure

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**Cultural Awareness**
Students will learn about the following topics:
- Historical events and history of ASL. Students will also obtain a basic understanding of Deaf culture and issues.

**Grammatical/Conversational Skills**
Students will be able to introduce themselves and exchange information about themselves in ASL. They will be able to converse about surroundings, where they live, their family, and other activities in ASL. They will also be able to give simple directions, describe others, and make requests in ASL. Students will participate in dialogues and class activities in ASL which highlight facial expression, body language, hand shapes, eye gaze, mouth morphemes, and head movement as it is communicated in the target language, ASL.
Vocabulary Skills
- Given a set of targeted vocabulary items drawn from class activities and dialogues, students will be able to demonstrate receptive and expressive mastery for a beginner student of ASL.

YOU are responsible for your success and learning in this class. Whenever you have a question or concern, it is important that you communicate with me and let me know! I will do my best to help you do well in this class. I am available for help and can assist you before/after school, via email or by appointment.

Good luck to you! ☺

EXPECTATIONS

1. **Do your best** – school is your #1 job.
2. **Keep your voice off and sign.** It’s not ASL if you use your voice.
3. **Be prepared** for class.
4. **Be on time** for class.
5. **Attendance is crucial** to your success in this class. If you are continually absent, you will fall behind your classmates. ASL is a visual language that is best learned in class.
6. **Participate in class.** If you sleep or do other work in class, you’ll fall behind.
7. **Leave all electronic items out of sight.** DeLand High School’s policy is strictly enforced. You will be informed when you are allowed to use them in class.

DeLand High’s Discipline Plan Procedures:
1. Teacher Intervention (verbal warning, time out, loss of privilege)
2. Teacher Intervention (contact guardian, detention, teacher/student conference, seat change, or isolation)
3. Write a referral and send students to Dean’s Office. Level 3 or higher offense, send student to Dean immediately.
**Cell Phone & Electronic Devices:**
My classroom is a BYOT, Bring Your Own Technology. This means I will be allowing students to use their personal devices in class for research and to create their own artifacts. However, electronic devices should only be used in class during these designated times. The DeLand High Computer Usage Contract applies to BYOT.

**Dress Code:**
DRESS CODE policy as assigned by Volusia County Schools should be adhered to.

**Be Prepared Everyday:**
Bring your notebook, assignments, note-cards, paper, and pencil with you every day. Every day you are expected to have paper for an assignment AND your notes out and open BEFORE class starts (along with other supplies).

**Academic Dishonesty:**
Any student involved in dishonesty on any work; including talking during exams, will be subject to one, some, or all of the following: an automatic zero on the assignment/test; a phone call home; one suspension from class; or a referral. Academic dishonesty is NOT tolerated in this classroom.

**Make-Up Work:**
Students are to adhere to all deadlines when submitting formative and summative work. All make-up work is the student’s responsibility. Please see me the day you return to receive any work that you have missed.

Any student needing to make-up work during school hours can arrange a time/day with the teacher or attend a scheduled remediation/tutoring session during lunch (Tuesday and Thursday).

**Retake Policy:**
Each 9 week grading period, students shall have the opportunity to retake one summative assessment. The teacher will determine if it is necessary for the student to retake the assessment and what the retake assessment will be.

**Tutoring:**
• I offer tutoring/remediation on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch.

**GradeBook:**
Gradebook will be used for displaying grades, assignments, homework, and class activities. Please check Grade Book consistently to stay connected.
I have received and read the classroom syllabus for my American Sign Language class. I know I am responsible for following the class guidelines as set forth in this document and in the Deland High School Student Handbook.

STUDENT Name: ___________________________

STUDENT Signature: ___________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ___________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ___________________________

Cell number: ___________________________
(please write clearly)

Best email to use to contact you: ___________________________
(please write clearly)

Date: ___________________________