

## ***American Sign Language***

Welcome to ASL! My name is Alisa Salem and it is an honor to teach ASL 1, 2 and 3 here at San Ramon Valley High. I have a vast and varied background in Deaf Studies, working with and for Deaf communities for over 20 years. I was a professional interpreter for 13 years, primarily in the educational setting. It has been my joy to teach ASL for the past 8 years. ASL is a thriving, ever-changing and beautiful language. The Deaf culture is rich in history, literature, and satire. My hope is that you will find yourself enjoying this journey as an ASL student. Get ready for a great year together as we learn, laugh, and discover what ASL is all about.

## ***Course Syllabus/ Course Policies***

### ***Policies:***

#### ***Attendance***

Attendance in ASL is vital to learning the language. Because I am the model for hand shapes, placement, movement and proper facial expressions, it is important that you are in class, on time, and prepared to work. If a situation arises in which you know you will not be present, please let me know, and I will do my best to get material to you as soon as possible, or work with you after you have returned.

**Excused Absences-** If you are ill, you have as many days as you are absent to make- up any participation/work/tests. I will sign a video and email it to you, or you can meet with me during school hours to learn the new material, or you can ask a friend in class to help you learn new signs. Tests will be made up on a certain "Make-Up" day that will be posted in class.

**Unexcused Absences-** It is your responsibility to learn the information.

**Tardies:** 3 Tardies equal a cut. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy an email is sent home. 3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy an Administrator is informed.

#### ***Tolerance and Bullying***

*District policy states that harassment in or out of the classroom is not to be tolerated. Harassment based on race, ethnicity, able-bodiedness, sexuality, perceived sexuality, gender, gender expression, monetary standing, religion or faith-base, or any other factor will be reported to the administration and dealt with accordingly. This includes slang such as 'that's so gay' or 'that's retarded'. Both are considered hate speech.*

*Here in ASL, I strive to create a community in which my students feel safe, cared for, and above all able to learn without judgment. Because ASL utilizes the face for grammar, it is possible that the facial expressions that are asked to be made may seem humorous to students. However, if we laugh together as a class, we laugh as a class, and mostly at me! It is my hope that students know that we are never laughing **at** anyone in a mean-spirited tone, but rather, cohesively, as we learn how this language is grammatically and culturally different from English.*

## **Grading**

Grading is based on a point system. Point values will be assigned to each sign and facial expression **on tests and the Final. Participation points are given a point value and will be posted. Participation in class is extremely important. Therefore, it is weighted heavily, and will be able to be made up in the event of an excused absence.**

**Participation-20%**- based on points given during class time/group work and will be posted on board

**Homework-15%**- will be posted and given point value

**Tests -50%**- posted prior to test and during test with point values per sign/facial expression

**Final- 15%**- will be both receptive and expressive (teacher will sign and students will sign)

**100-90%= A**

**89-80%= B**

**79-70%= C**

**69-60%= D- (this letter grade does not meet the requirement to move into the next level of ASL)**

**59-0%= F**