

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
DHHproud: SHOWCASE CONTEST.....	2
Student Planning Guide.....	2
Theme:.....	2
Purpose.....	2
Showcase Contest Categories*.....	2
General Information.....	2
OFFICIAL RULES	
Spotlight (Grades 6-12).....	3
Spotlight Scoring.....	4
Spotlight Penalties.....	4
OFFICIAL RULES	
ASL Poetry (K - Grade 12).....	5
ASL POETRY TEMPLATE (PRIMARY).....	7
ASL POETRY TEMPLATE (INTERMEDIATE).....	8
ASL POETRY TEMPLATE (SECONDARY).....	9
ASL Poetry Scoring.....	10
OFFICIAL RULES	
DHH Art (K - Grade 12).....	11
DHH Art Scoring.....	12



DHHproud: SHOWCASE CONTEST

Monday, April 13th, 2026

Student Planning Guide

Theme:

Not a disability, but a difference!

Purpose

POPDHH's Showcase Contest is designed for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students to gain experience in public presentation, promote self-expression, gain self-assurance, improve communication skills, showcase their abilities, develop self-esteem and provide them with the opportunity to compete for prizes. The contest is open to DHH students (with category "F" designation) from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in British Columbia, Canada.

Showcase Contest Categories*

Showcase has three categories that include prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Spotlight | Grades 6-12 | perform live
on the Showcase date*** |
| 2. ASL Poetry | K-Gr. 3, Gr. 4-7, Gr. 8-12 | K-Gr.7: virtual pre-judged competition
Grades 8-12: perform live
on the Showcase date*** |
| 3. DHH Art | K-Gr. 3, Gr. 4-7, Gr. 8-12 | virtual pre-judged competition |

General Information

Minimum Number of Participants

A minimum of four (4) participants are required for each category and for all age groups in the contest to proceed.

Language of presentation: Spoken English or American Sign Language

Registration and Submission of forms and videos: TDHHS will register their students through our [online registration form](#) and send all student submissions to office@popdhh.ca.

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------|
| * | Registration deadline for all three categories in Showcase: | Monday, Mar 2, 2026 |
| ** | Deadline for all submissions: | |
| | DHH Art (K-Grade 12): | Monday, Mar 2, 2026 |
| | ASL Poetry (Grades K-7): | Monday, Mar 2, 2026 |

*** Location: Michael J. Fox Theatre, 7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby

OFFICIAL RULES

Spotlight (Grades 6-12)

The Spotlight Competition

- Open to DHH students in Grade 6 - 12 in BC in either spoken English or ASL. This is an in-person competition taking place on the date and at the venue mentioned in page 2.
- **Students must have F designation. Audiogram is now required.**
- First place winners of previous POPDHH-organised events (both Optimist CCDHH competition and Spotlight) in that age category are not eligible to compete again for the same age category, but can compete in other categories.
- Presentation (spoken or signed) must be based on this year's theme (see page 2).
- **Minimum 4 participants, maximum of 25 competitors**
- The presentation must relate to this year's theme.
- Each contestant shall prepare their own material; school staff may advise the contestant in the preparation of the material and may make minor changes or improvements in the material at any time but the presentation ideas and delivery should be entirely the student's responsibility.
- Contestants are required to stay in one place or behind the lectern when presenting.
- **NEW RULE: Students are permitted to identify themselves and any other relevant information during their presentation. Self-identification was not permitted in previous iterations of Showcase.**

Timing

- The presentation cannot be shorter than 3 minutes or longer than 4 minutes. Contestants going over their allotted time will not be cautioned during or after their presentation, but will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over the allotted time.
- To assist the timekeeper in establishing a uniform starting time, all contestants must express the official theme of this year before beginning the presentation.

Penalty points

- **Participants are permitted one 4" x 6" index card to use as a memory aid; reading from a printout of the entire presentation will incur penalty points.**
- The use of props, special costumes or the use of teleprompters will incur penalties.
- Failure to identify any quotation or copyrighted material used in the presentation will result in penalty points.
- **NEW RULE: Students are strictly prohibited from using AI to help them prepare for their presentation. Any infringement may disqualify and ban you from this and future competitions.**

Judging and prizes

- All contestants (oral and ASL) will be judged as one combined group for first, second and third places.



- Transcripts of all presentations (spoken or signed) must be submitted to POPDHH by the [deadline listed on page 2](#).
- Please check our website for information on prizes and other periodic updates:

[Go to Top](#)

Spotlight Scoring

Scoring in the Spotlight contest will conform to the following criteria for a total of 50 points:

Competitor	Gurpreet Singh	
MATERIAL ORGANIZATION	Points/ Maximum	
Subject Adherence — Title and content follows this year's theme, Stays on topic throughout presentation		/ 10
Logic — Presentation follows a particular sequence of facts and events		/ 10
Content — Presentation has substance and details		/ 10
DELIVERY AND PRESENTATION		
Gestures — Control and use of facial expressions, intonation, body language and gestures while presenting		/ 10
Delivery — Expressive, Clear, concise and dynamic presentation		/ 10
TOTAL POINTS		/50

Penalties in the Spotlight contest for contestants who do not adhere to the rules will conform to the following criteria for a total penalty of 17 points.

Spotlight Penalties

Competitor	Gurpreet Singh	
	Points/ Maximum	
Total Time - must be greater than 3 minutes and less than 4 minutes		
Time penalties - Contestants will be penalised one point for each 15 seconds or portion thereof over/under the limit (Maximum penalty points - 10).		# of 15 seconds increment over
Use of props, costumes, etc. - The use of props, special costumes or the use of teleprompters will not be permitted. The penalty is disqualification. Notes and lecterns may be used.		/ yes = 1 / no = 0
Failure to announce the official topic at the beginning of the speech - To assist the timekeeper in establishing a uniform starting time, all contestants must express the official topic of the speech before beginning the speech. A 1-point penalty must be assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic. The timekeeper will start the timer for the speech after the title has been announced.		/ 1
Failure to identify non-original material - Any quotation or copyrighted material used must be identified as part of the speech. The failure to do so will result in disqualification.		/ yes = 1 / no = 0
Failure to complete the presentation - Each contestant must complete the entire presentation. The penalty is disqualification.		/ yes = 1 / no = 0
TOTAL PENALTY		/14

[Go to Top](#)

OFFICIAL RULES

ASL Poetry (K - Grade 12)

1. **The ASL Poetry Competition** is open to all DHH students (K-Grade 12) presenting ASL poetry related to this year's theme (see page 2).

a. First place winners of previous POPDHH-organised ASL Poetry in that age category are not eligible to compete again for the same age category, but can submit entries in other categories. Having won first place and once they age out of their previous age category, students can compete in the next age category. **E.g. a first-place winner in Grade 1 will only be able to compete again when they are in Grade 4.**

b. **Minimum 4 participants for all grade groups**

i. **K-3: no maximum**

ii. **Gr. 4-7: no maximum**

iii. **Gr. 8-12: 10 maximum**

c. Each contestant shall prepare their own material; school staff may advise the contestant in the preparation of the material and may make minor changes or improvements in the material at any time but the presentation ideas and delivery should be entirely the student's responsibility.

2. Criteria

a. Student's ASL Poetry (K-7) can be **loosely related** to this year's theme but more importantly, students must state the title of their ASL Poetry and list all handshapes they will be using before they start the ASL Poem. **Bonus points will be awarded if your poetry has a connection to this year's theme.**

b. **NEW RULE: Students in Grades 8-12 must connect their ASL Poem to this year's theme.**

c. Mandatory handshapes cannot be substituted or modified.

d. The presentations must be:

i. **K-3 students must be > 30 seconds and < 2 minutes**

ii. **Gr. 4-7 students must be > 45 seconds and < 2 minutes**

iii. **Gr. 8-12 students must be > 1 minute and < 2 minutes**

e. **The timer starts after you have stated the poem's title and a list of handshapes.**

3. Process

a. Grade K-3 and 4-7 contestants will record and email their recordings to POPDHH by the [deadline listed on page 2](#).

b. Grade 8-12 contestants will compete in person competition taking place on the date and at the venue mentioned in page 2.

c. Judges will prejudge two groups (K-Grade 3 and Grades 4-7 entries) on the submission deadline mentioned on page 2 to determine winners in those age groups. Grade 8-12 contestants will be judged on Showcase day.

d. Top 3 winners for each age group will be announced on Showcase day.

4. Prizes:

a. Please check our website for information on prizes and periodic updates.

ASL Poetry Scoring (K-Gr. 12)

Scoring in the ASL Poetry contest will conform to the following criteria for a total of 50 points.

Competitor	Siu Ling	
	Points/ Maximum	
MATERIAL ORGANIZATION		
Subject Adherence — Title and content follows this year's theme, stays on topic throughout presentation and uses all mandatory handshapes	/10	
Content — Poetry develops the subject matter with sufficient details	/10	
DELIVERY AND PRESENTATION		
Creativity - Uses poetic features of ASL (rhyme, rhythm, visual vernacular, etc.)	/10	
Delivery — Expressive, confident, clear, concise and dynamic presentation, dramatic appropriateness	/10	
Fluidity - facial expressions, clarity of handshapes, visual pacing	/10	
TOTAL POINTS	/50	

Penalties in the ASL Poetry contest for contestants who do not adhere to the rules will conform to the following criteria:

Competitor	Siu Ling	
Total Time - must be less than 2 minutes		
	Points/ Maximum	
Time penalties - The time limit for presentations is not over 2 minutes in length. Contestants will be penalised one point for each 15 seconds or portion thereof over the limit (maximum penalty - 10 points). The same rule applies to contestants under the time limit. See Criteria for more details.		# of 15 seconds increments
Use of props, costumes, etc. - The use of props, virtual backgrounds, special costumes or clothing or the use of teleprompters will not be permitted. The penalty is disqualification. Notes and lecterns may be used.		/ yes = 1 / no = 0
Handshapes - The candidate exceeded the maximum number of handshapes. Range of 0-3 points as penalty depending on the degree of noncompliance.		/3
Handshapes - ASL Poetry did not include the required handshapes. This will result in a deduction of 2 points or a fraction of, based on the degree of noncompliance.		/2
Failure to identify non-original material - Any quotation or copyrighted material used must be identified as part of the poem. The failure to do so will result in disqualification.		/ yes = 1 / no = 0
Failure to complete the poem - Each contestant must complete the entire poem. The penalty is disqualification.		/ yes = 1 / no = 0
TOTAL PENALTY		/18

[Go to Top](#)

ASL Poetry (K-Gr.3) Criteria	ASL Poetry (Gr.4-7) Criteria	ASL Poetry (Gr.8-12) Criteria
- Minimum of 4 contestants required; no maximum - The student's poem MUST include this handshape: "5" - The student can add up to three (3) more handshapes. - Total of 4 handshapes 	- Minimum of 4 contestants required; no maximum - The student's poem MUST include these handshapes: "5" "1" - The student can add up to two more handshapes. - Total of 4 handshapes  	- Minimum of 4 contestants required; maximum of 10 - The student's poem MUST include these handshapes: "5" "1" "A" - The student can add up to two more handshapes. - Total of 5 handshapes   

DHHproud - ASL Poetry Video Submission Guide and Requirements

Framing

Make sure your video is in landscape (widescreen), and not portrait. We need to be able to see your signing space.

Eye Contact

One of the most valued characteristics in ASL is eye contact. Looking into the camera is how you make eye contact through video and allows you to engage with your audience.

Camera Angles

Keep the camera level with your body. The lens should not be angled up or down, you want to be looking forward.

Lighting

Bright or natural light is best. Do not stand with any light sources behind you. Avoid filming under fluorescent lighting.

Background

Use a plain, solid background that is free of objects and clutter.



Steady Camera

Your camera must be set up appropriately in a safe and steady position.

Clothing

Wear a solid colour top that is an opposite hue of your skin, i.e. darker skin tones should wear lighter clothing, and lighter skin tones should wear darker clothing.

Footage Speed

Please do not speed up or slow down your footage for any reason

Camera Settings

High Definition (1080p or higher), .mp4 or .mov format

File Transfer

The best way and most secure way to share the ASL Poetry is via One Drive from your district email, make sure to allow office@popdhh.ca to view and download the files. If that is not an option for you, please get in touch as soon as possible so we can work it out.

[Go to Top](#)

ASL POETRY TEMPLATE (PRIMARY)

Student Name: type student name here

Grade: K 1 2 3 (circle one)

Title of my ASL Poem*: type response here

I have used these handshapes in my poem

1. "5" (mandatory)

2. Type additional handshapes here

3. Type additional handshapes here

4. Type additional handshapes here

REMINDERS

**Does not necessarily need to be connected to this year's theme but the title of the ASL Poem and the handshapes used by the student must be interconnected.*

- Open to all DHH students presenting ASL poetry loosely related to the theme
 - K to Grade 7 contestants will compete virtually
 - Grade 8-12 contestants will compete in person on April 13th, 2026
 - Judges will pre-judge K-Grade 7 entries before April 13th to determine winners.
 - Top 3 winners (Grades K-3, 4-7, 8-12) will be announced on Showcase day (April 13th, 2026)
- Students who have previously won 1st place in this category and age group cannot compete again
- Students must state the **title** of their ASL Poetry and list all **handshapes** they will be using before they start the ASL Poem.
- Timer starts after the title and handshapes are stated
 - K-3 students must be > 30 seconds and < 2 minutes
- Mandatory handshapes cannot be substituted or modified

Deadline: Teachers to submit K-Grade 7 video recordings to office@popdhh.ca by the [deadline listed on page 2](#).

[Go to Top](#)

ASL POETRY TEMPLATE (INTERMEDIATE)

Student Name: type student name here

Grade: 4 5 6 7 (circle one)

Title of my ASL Poem*: type response here

I have used these handshapes in my poem:

1. "5" (mandatory)
 2. "1" (mandatory)
 3. Type additional handshapes here
 4. Type additional handshapes here
-

REMINDERS

- Open to all DHH students presenting ASL poetry*
 - K to Grade 7 contestants will compete virtually
 - Grade 8-12 contestants will compete in person on April 13th, 2026.
 - Judges will pre-judge K-Grade 7 entries before April 13th to determine winners.
 - Top 3 winners (Grades K-3, 4-7, 8-12) will be announced on Showcase day (April 13th, 2026)
- Students who have previously won 1st place in this category and age group cannot compete again.
- Students must state the **title** of their ASL Poetry and list all **handshapes** they will be using before they start the ASL Poem.
- Timer starts after the title and handshapes are stated
 - Gr. 4-7 students must be > 45 seconds and < 2 minutes
- Mandatory handshapes cannot be substituted or modified.

**The ASL poem must be related to this year's theme.*

Deadline: Teachers to submit K-Grade 7 video recordings to office@popdhh.ca by the [deadline listed on page 2](#).

[Go to Top](#)

ASL POETRY TEMPLATE (SECONDARY)

Student Name: type student name here
Grade: 8 9 10 11 12 (circle one)
Title of my ASL Poem*: type response here

I have used these handshapes in my poem

1. "1" (mandatory)

2. "5" (mandatory)

3. "A" (mandatory)

4. Type additional handshapes here

5. Type additional handshapes here

REMINDERS

**The ASL poem must be related to this year's theme.*

- Open to all DHH students presenting ASL poetry related to the theme
 - K to Grade 7 contestants will compete virtually
 - Grade 8-12 contestants will compete in person on April 13th, 2026.
 - Judges will pre-judge K-Grade 7 entries before April 13th to determine winners.
 - Top 3 winners (Grades K-3, 4-7, 8-12) will be announced on Showcase day (April 13th, 2026)
- Students who have previously won 1st place in this category and age group cannot compete again
- Students must state the **title** of their ASL Poetry and list all **handshapes** they will be using before they start the ASL Poem.
- Timer starts after the title and handshapes are stated
 - Gr. 8-12 students must be > 1 minute and < 2 minutes
- Mandatory handshapes cannot be substituted or modified.

OFFICIAL RULES

DHH Art (K - Grade 12)

- **The DHH Art Competition** is open to all K-12 DHH students in the province in three age groupings: K-3, 4-7 and 8-12.
 - First place winners of previous POPDHH-organised DHH Art or DE'VIA in that age category are not eligible to compete again for the same age category, but can submit entries in other categories.
 - Having won **first place** and once they age out of their previous age category, students can compete in the next age category. E.g. a first-place winner in Grade 1 will only be able to compete again when they are in Grade 4.
 - Students are compared to their peers and not to other grade levels when their artwork is being judged. E.g. in the K-Grade 3 category, a Kindergarten student is judged on the quality of their artwork when compared to other Kindergarten students. They are not being compared to students' artistic abilities in Grade 3.
 - **No maximum number of contestants, minimum of 4 contestants required for each age group.**
 - The students' artwork can be loosely related to this year's theme (see page 2).
 - Suggested topics for art inspiration: Deaf culture, pride, identity, your community, strengths, capabilities, successes or ASL.
- **Criteria**
 - Medium: pencil drawing, watercolour, acrylic/oil, ink, pastels, crayons, felt pens, tempera.
 - Artwork must be original and created only by the student. It can be drawn or painted on 8.5" x 11" paper, canvas or aquarelle paper. Only submit 2D entries; e.g. drawing, painting on paper/canvas (no photographs of sculptures or other 3-dimensional art). If the students' work is larger or smaller, ensure the picture taken is resized to 11" x 8.5" dimensions.
 - No clipart, photocopies, magazine cutouts, computer graphics, blackline drawings, tracings, computer software, newspaper cuttings, etc can be used. All artwork must be created independently by the student.
 - **NEW RULE: The use of AI to generate images is strictly prohibited.**
- **Submission of artwork**
 - Artwork must be photographed with high resolution JPEG or PNG format (**NOT as a PDF**) and artist statement emailed by the [deadline listed on page 2](#) to office@popdhh.ca.
 - Artists may sign their work if desired.
 - DHH students must submit an artist statement (optional for students in K-Grade 3 but **mandatory** for Grades 4-12); they can fill in or record themselves signing an artist statement using the DHH Art template below.
 - Teachers may help students with preparing the artist statement if needed.
- **Judging and prizes**
 - Judges will pre-judge all artwork prior to the Showcase event to determine winners
 - Top 3 winners for each age group will be announced on Showcase day.
 - Please check our website for information on prizes and periodic updates.



DHH Art Scoring

Our judges will use the follow rubric in the DHH Art contest will conform to the following criteria for a total of 50 points:

DHH ART CRITERIA		Points/ Maximum
Good use of the space/canvas/paper to convey the theme		/10
Judicious use and balance of colour		/10
Interesting and balanced juxtaposition of objects connected to the theme		/10
General drawing/painting skills (technique, impact, creativity)		/10
Overall connection of the artwork to the theme		/10
TOTAL POINTS		/50

[Go to Top](#)

DHH ARTIST STATEMENT* TEMPLATE

(Teachers, please type individual student responses and email documents to office@popdhh.ca)

Artist Name: _____ type student name here

Grade level: K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 (circle one)

Title of Artwork: _____ type response here

I have depicted this year's theme in my artwork by: type student response here

I used these materials to create my artwork: type materials used here

Process of creating my artwork.

1. _____ Type steps here

2. _____

3. _____

I am proud of my artwork because (optional response)

* *Optional for Kindergarten-Grade 3 students; mandatory for Grades 4-12 students*

Please scan and submit artwork to office@popdhh.ca by the deadline listed on page 2, using a photocopier/scanner to showcase your student's art in the best way for our judges, as photographs are not uniform.

[Go to Top](#)