

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Voices-Off Classroom Rule

The American Sign Language (ASL) program at Round Rock High School has adopted a “Voices-Off” classroom rule for all ASL classes. This rule is important so that students are able to be immersed in a learning environment in which only ASL is used in the classroom where auditory distractions are held to a minimum, and so that students learn to communicate without speaking. As a result, students will increase their fluency in the target language (ASL).

This rule means that the majority of class time will be conducted in ASL and that all students will be expected to communicate in ASL during those designated times. Particularly in beginning sign language classes, true ASL communication will be minimal and can be frustrating. However, each student is expected to adhere to the Voices-Off policy and communicate using gestures, mimes, pen/pencil, etc... All of these non-verbal communication strategies will only benefit the students in learning to express themselves in ASL and in becoming more familiar with Deaf culture.

The participation of students in this signing environment is absolutely vital to their acquisition of ASL. Each student's contribution to the class and adherence to this policy will directly affect his/her grade in the class. Participation grades are given regularly and are based upon the individual student's ability to communicate without verbalizations.

The ASL program at Round Rock High School is exciting and challenging. As an instructor of ASL, I know that a Voices-Off rule will not only help students achieve greater fluency, but will also add a feeling of success and confidence in their use of this unique language.

Please contact me with questions or concerns regarding this policy. Both the student's signature and a parent's signature are required and will be kept on file here at the school.

I, _____, have read the Course Syllabus and Voices-Off Rule for American Sign Language (ASL). I understand and agree to abide by the rules and policies stated in the aforementioned documents.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date