

ASL 1 Syllabus
Benjamin Franklin High School
2026-2027

Email: sjones@bfcsaz@gmail.com

Website: [Teacher Website](#)

Office Hours: By Appointment

[PowerSchool Parent Portal](#)

At

Course Description

American Sign Language (ASL) 1 is an introductory course that teaches students the fundamentals of communicating using American Sign Language. Students will learn basic vocabulary, fingerspelling, numbers, and simple sentence structure while developing visual communication skills. The course also introduces students to the history and culture of the Deaf community. Through interactive activities, partner practice, and visual learning, students will begin to understand and use ASL in everyday situations. By the end of the year, students will be able to engage in basic signed conversations and demonstrate an understanding of Deaf culture and communication norms.

Instructional Methods

The class will be taught in ASL and English the first few days then voice off to challenge and prepare for a full immersion experience to prep for ASL 2. While the students will not understand everything in the beginning, through constant interactive activities and effective personal practice, students will be able to understand through a short period of time.

Communication Policy

All instructions and homework assignments will be posted weekly on the teacher website and will be visible to both students and parents. Any emails sent to the teacher will be responded to within a reasonable time (within 24-48 hours).

Teacher Website

-LINK ([Teacher Website](#))

-All of the homework, resources and announcements will be posted on the website

Attendance

Students who miss school time lose valuable classroom instruction. It is essential for students to attend school daily and on time. It is understandable that there may be times when students must be absent due to illness. Please make every effort to schedule appointments after school to prevent students from missing essential elements of their education. Ten or more absences

(excused or unexcused) within a given semester may result in the loss of extracurricular privileges. Please check the [BFHS Family Handbook](#) for additional information.

Academic Dishonesty The act of cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying homework answers from other students, in the current year or from the past.
- Verbal or nonverbal communication during a quiz, exam, or other class evaluation.
- Telling students in other hours about the existence of, content of, and nature of a quiz.

Behavior Plan

If a student does not follow the behavior expectations outlined in the syllabus, he or she will earn discipline actions in the following order: The first time, a **verbal warning**. The second time, a **teacher directed consequence and an email to parents**. The third time, a **detention and call to your parents**. Should the student continue to disrupt the classroom, the student and his parents will speak with the principal.

Grades

Grades are assigned as a measurement for varying levels of achievement in a subject of study. Parents and students are encouraged to utilize the Powerschool Parent Portal to view grades and the current progress. Teachers update grades weekly.

Religion in the classroom

- We understand each student brings their own personal belief system with them to the classroom; we seek to help them understand history as part of the human experience, we do not seek to change belief systems
- We recognize the distinction between devotional expression/belief and the study of diverse devotional expressions
- We understand religions are internally diverse
- We acknowledge religion is embedded in the human experience
- We recognize how and why political, economic and cultural lenses are intertwined within religion
- We accept our knowledge claims are "situated"; they arise out of particular social and historical contexts which are not the same as universally accepted claims/truths
- Studying religion, in context, allows us to analyze power/powerlessness in regards to world events

Supplies

- 1.5 inch Binder
- Black pens
- Red pens
- Pencils
- Line Papers
- 5 Binder Folders
- Index Cards
- Pencil Pouch for index cards

- Several Rings for Vocab Cards

MATERIALS DUE: 7/31/26

Class policies and procedures

1. Enter the class in an orderly fashion.
 - Unpack your backpack, hang your backpack up at the back of the room and begin working immediately and silently on the bell work at your desk. If you are not in your seat when the bell rings **and** working on the bell work, you will be marked tardy and you may lose points. On the fifth tardy of each quarter for your first class of the day (3rd for other classes) per the [Family Handbook](#), students will receive a detention.
2. Respect your classmates. Listen and watch their contributions/thoughtfully consider their words.
3. Respect the authority in the classroom.
 - Do not speak while Mrs. Jones is speaking and signing nor while another student is addressing the class.
 - Always raise your hand before speaking or signing unless instructed otherwise.
4. Signing in ASL and Participation
 - You are expected to sign in ASL unless given permission or told that English is permitted. Points will be deducted from one's engagement grade for giving up from trying to sign in ASL and speaking in English.
 - Students can *ALWAYS* ask questions. As we adjust later in the semesters to a signing-only classroom, students can first sign "*HOW SIGN fingerspell English word?*", receive permission, and ask their question in English. The teacher may help the student repeat the question in ASL.
5. Do not leave the room or get up out of your seat.
 - If you need to use the restroom, ask for permission in ASL. Do not ask to use the restroom during the first or final 15 minutes of class and only ask if you have finished the activity that you are working on. Engagement points will be deducted for excessive restroom requests. Students are allowed 1 restroom pass per quarter without a penalty, and students will be deducted 5 points for every subsequent pass unless there is a documented medical excuse.
 - If you need to use a tissue, please do so without disturbing others.
6. Keep your binder organized. Binder checks may occur throughout the year.
7. No food or drink in class. Water only.
8. Do not start packing up until Mrs. Jones dismisses you. Please push in your chair and clean your area before leaving.

ASL 1- Grade Distribution

40% Language Engagement
30% Tests
10% Quizzes
20% Homework and classwork

*These percentages reflect 80% of the final semester grade. Students will take the final exam each semester which is worth 20 % of the semester grade.

Tests and Quizzes

If absent, students have **one week** to make up an exam or quiz. The make-up exam or quiz **may** be more difficult than the original exam.

Homework

It is important to study the new vocabulary and grammar in order to be prepared for the quizzes. This will be the implied daily homework, however, there will be additional homework assignments announced in class and posted on my teacher website.

Missing Work

Absent students are responsible for the information covered, the homework or homework quiz.

- **If you are absent on Monday or Tuesday**, you must turn in makeup work and take the homework quiz by Friday. **If you are absent Wednesday, or Thursday**, your makeup work must be done by Monday. **If you are absent on a Friday**, your makeup work must be done by Tuesday of the next week. **If you are absent the day an assignment is due**, but were here the day it was assigned, your makeup work must be done by the end of the day that you return.

Thank you in advance for cooperation and help! Throughout the year, the teacher may need to adjust the syllabus.

Please fill out the acknowledgement and return it **ON FRIDAY [7/31/26](#)**

I acknowledge that I have received and read the course syllabus for this class. I understand the course expectations, grading policies, attendance requirements, academic integrity guidelines, and other course policies. I understand that it is my responsibility to follow these policies and to ask the instructor if I have any questions about the syllabus.

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Student Name

Student Signature
