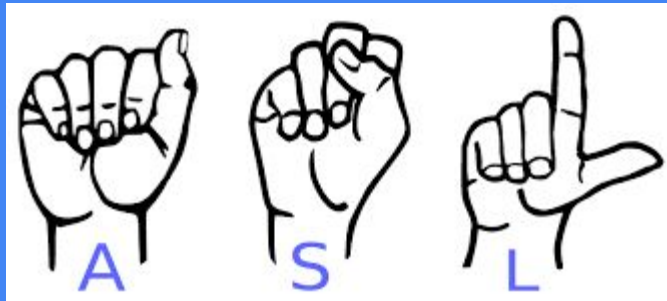


BHS: ASL Programming for the 2019-2020 School Year

Marc Balanda- BHS principal

Kemen Holley- K-12 Curriculum Specialist WL & ESOL



ASL programming decision making process

- The original program proposal included hiring a full-time ASL teacher
- World Language remains a shortage area in CT but regardless of the number of certified candidates that apply, the quality of the instructional experience that will be provided is paramount during the interview process
- We received five online applications and interviewed each candidate
- Two different finalists were considered but ultimately not available to commit to Brookfield after being offered employment

ASL programming decision making process

- Worked with American Schools for the Deaf in CT and NY, Columbia University, Gallaudet University, Hunter College, Deaf NYC, American Sign Language Teachers Association and nationwide ASL job boards to expand our search parameters
- We were left with no viable options for a traditional classroom instructor for our ASL program
- Canceling the program is not an option; we made a commitment and want to fulfill the expectations of the community and our students

ASL programming decision making process (continued)

- We have been in contact with Virtual High School over the past several years to explore options for various shortage/specialized area courses
- We have experienced success with other independent study online courses in Math and Business
- Gallaudet University offers a wide selection of asynchronous, online courses and programs for undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies

ASL programming decision making process (continued)

Decision Point - Utilizing Virtual High School's American Sign Language course, in conjunction with a Class Facilitator to provide in-person support, is our best option and we are excited to get started

Instructional Plan 2019-2020

- Brookfield Public Schools is partnering with The Virtual High School to:
 - provide our 100 enrolled students with a cutting edge, asynchronous learning online experience with D2L Brightspace platform
 - taught by highly-qualified and certified ASL instructor (81% have Master's degree or higher)
 - paired with a certified Class Facilitator to provide Social, Emotional and Academic facilitation for each student

Rationale

- Provide an individualized one-to-one language learning experience where, within the digital platform, students work with other students across the country in a diverse, multicultural classroom environment that supports global perspective and opportunities to develop self-advocacy and communication skills.

Adheres to National Standards for Learning American Sign Language	Promotes digital citizenship and self-discipline	Accredited by NCAA and Middle States Commission of Secondary Schools	Asynchronous learning environment
Adheres to World Readiness Standards for Language Learning	In-depth student/teacher interaction (digital office hours)	Peer to peer learning to foster creativity and critical thinking	Develops competence to communicate with the deaf community
Inclusive learning environment	Focus on cultural understanding	Multiple means of assessment	Can count as 2-year college entrance pre-requisite

The student experience (BHS)

- Attend a scheduled 83 minute class in room 109
- Utilize their 1:1 device (w/webcam) to engage with D2L's *Brightspace* platform
 - View uploaded videos and post their own videos using Video Note
 - Complete assigned exercises
 - Post on discussion boards, blog, vlogs, and virtual chats
 - Review teacher feedback on completed assignments through *Rubrics*
 - Self-assess and peer-assess hand-shape, palm orientation, location, movement, and non-manual signals
- Receive technical, academic, social, and emotional support from the Class Facilitator

The student experience (former student)

Kathryn Atkinson



Financial Impact of the Program - Budget Neutral

\$60,000 for VHS & \$25,000 for Class facilitator Position -

- **We have budgeted \$85,000 for the Traditional ASL Teacher Position**

Curriculum and Instruction: 65%

- Full year of curriculum (33 weeks) content for ASL 1 course (1.0 credits)
- Course instruction by certified teacher for one year
- Online student orientation for all students in program
- Online self-paced training for local class facilitators(s) - Class Facilitator Orientation and Resource Center

Help Desk and Support – 20%

- 24x7 access to Contact Center and Knowledge Base for technical support and general assistance
- Oversight of online program by team of experienced administrative, curriculum, and school services personnel

Infrastructure – 15%

- Access to Learning Management System (LMS) for students – Brightspace by D2L
- Access to registration and grading system to enroll and track student progress and grades – Genius SIS
- Student e-transcripts upon course completion

Looking into the Future: Potential Courses

[A week in the life of a VHS student](#)