

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE & INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAM

SIGNIFICANCE OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

The Puget Sound region is nationally renowned for its social service programs serving the needs of those with variable hearing losses. In addition, the region enjoys great support from governmental and business entities with their job placement programs. To date, professional employment, internships and 'shadowing' locales that serve the community include:

- ❑ **A.D.W.A.S.**: Abused Deaf Woman's Advocacy Services. Located in Seattle, this national model serves as a centerpiece that protects the lives of Deaf woman in abusive relationships.
- ❑ **T.A.C.I.D.**: Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals With Disabilities. Located in Tacoma, it is an umbrella organization that operates as a clearinghouse for assistance with job placement, Federal and State government program assistance as well as being a social center for those residing in the metropolitan Tacoma region.
- ❑ **C.S.C.D.H.H.**: Community Service Center for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. Located in Seattle, it too, is an umbrella organization supported in part by United Way, King County and the generosity of contributions by citizens.

There are numerous opportunities for students to use their signing abilities, including a Deaf Restaurant, Working with Deaf Actors, and even monthly Sign Games at area high schools with peers.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

The *INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAM* pathway is the only two-year training program that leads to recognition of both American Sign Language and exploring American Sign Language Interpreting.

The pathway includes skills classes, laboratory experience and lecture/discussions surrounding topics pertaining to Deafness as a *culture*. The coursework, combined with outside readings, activities and homework creates a customized learning experience unlike anything a traditional high school student may have been exposed to.

The ASL courses are sequential and a minimum grade point average of a "B-" or better is **STRONGLY** recommended to continue in second semester and third semester ASL. If you already have some signing skill, you can request to have your skill level assessed and placed into an appropriate class, providing that it already appears on your high school transcripts.

Students who participate in American Sign Language from Mr. Podmore can have their credits designated in the *crossover* capacity. *Crossover credits* are where a student determines if they want their credit from ASL to go towards a Fine Arts credit OR a Career/Technical Education credit.

Students who participate in American Sign Language courses with Mr. Podmore and decide upon graduation from high school will discover that area colleges and universities accept ASL. All public /private colleges and universities accept ASL as part of the conditional entrance requirements.

Graduating seniors planning on attending a college in Washington State with two years of ASL are recognized for college entrance requirements on equal footing with other traditional, spoken languages such as Korean and Japanese.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Mr. Ron Podmore, A.A., B.A., M.Ed. has a life-long hearing loss. He joins the diminishing numbers of teachers who are Deaf and teaching ASL to hearing high school students. He earned his degrees at Centralia College, Western Washington University and Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. In addition, he has spent a very memorable semester at Gallaudet University, the world's only university for the Deaf, in Washington, D.C. in 1988.

Mr. Podmore's work has been featured in *The Seattle Times*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Daily Olympian*, *The Columbian*, *Teacher Magazine* and a litany of others too numerous to list. He is recognized by the *Washington State School Board Association*, A Member of *Washington Association of Career/Technical Educators* and is also a *PBS Golden Apple* Recipient.



Mr. Podmore has published two books: A biography (*Profiles of Deaf Americans*) on Famous Deaf Americans including Academy-award winning actress Marlee Matlin (NBC-West Wing) and as well as his first foray into fiction with **A Sign To Remember**. Both books can be found via on-line vendors or at area bookstores.

He has enjoyed his affiliation with the Federal Way School District since 1995.

Students in Ron Podmore's American Sign Language course participate and learn visually with less emphasis on auditory processing as the program progresses.

Many students enjoy the freedom to explore not only what they learn, but also how they learn and how it applies to the world around them. Students in Ron Podmore's American Sign Language course participate and learn visually with less emphasis on auditory processing as the program progresses.



AVAILABLE COURSES

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE / SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING 1 & 2

Credits	Prerequisite	Special Information
.5 per semester Year Course	None	\$35/semester, includes workbook, Occupational Ed Credit

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE / SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING 3 & 4

Credits	Prerequisite	Special Information
.5 per semester Year Course	C+ or better in ASL 1&2	\$35/semester, includes workbook, Occupational Ed Credit

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