



## American Sign Language 1

KAT 2020-2021

American Sign Language is the 3rd to 4th most used language in the United States (depending on your source). ASL is a distinct language with its own syntax and grammar. It is increasingly being accepted as a foreign language by colleges across the country. Our goal for this class is to prepare students to pass an entrance exam to enter college at an advanced level in the language. Students will learn vocabulary, grammar, and cultural information about the Deaf community in the United States.

Who should take this class?

This class is for 9th-12th students wanting to learn a foreign language. 8th grade students will be accepted after a conversation between parents and tutor.

Who is the tutor?

Jennifer Heeres is a Nationally Certified Sign Language Interpreter, who currently works on a contract basis in the Southwest Michigan area. She has been signing for 18 years, interpreting for 13 years, and nationally certified for 7.

Jennifer started her career as a teacher for deaf and hard of hearing students, then transitioned to full-time interpreting. She has a bachelor's degree in Special Education (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) from Illinois State University and an additional certificate in Sign Language Interpreting from Harper Community College. Jennifer is currently working on her master's degree in Healthcare Interpretation from Rochester Institute of Technology.

In addition to working as an interpreter, Jennifer mothers and homeschools her 4 children. She is active in her church, Calvary Bible Church, where she is a member and a volunteer for children's ministry (and the sign language interpreter). Jennifer is excited to be returning to the classroom to share her passion for the Deaf community and American Sign Language with a new set of students.

Cost: \$350 for the year-long class. \$175 due at the first week of classes. \$175 is due the first class in January. There is no textbook purchase, but a \$30 year-long subscription to GoReact, a video communication site, will be required.

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