

## Why Choose American Sign Language?

Nearly one million US citizens are Deaf.

ASL is the third-most studied language in the United States.

ASL is unique to the United States; the culture and language have a rich history that students will experience first hand.

ASL is a high-demand language; students often use ASL in their after school jobs and career choices.

New York State has seven Pre K-12 schools for the Deaf to support local Deaf community members, including one in Rome, New York.

ASL appeals to students who prefer hands-on-learning because it is a visual language.

Increasingly, colleges and universities across the United States are accepting the study of American Sign Language as a pathway to meet their foreign language requirement, including all SUNY schools in New York State.

Students can continue their study of American Sign Language in college with a minor or major in the subject.

## OHM BOCES Provides

- Promotional material for the program
- Hiring, mentoring, training, and professional development for teachers
- Curriculum, textbooks and classroom materials
- Equipment, training and support
- An advisory board to share information with schools and receive feedback
- Communication with parents and school district stakeholders

## School District Provides

- Internal promotional efforts to increase student awareness and interest
- Recruiting and scheduling of students
- Classroom facilitators for far-site classes
- Representatives to the advisory council

## What makes IVC Classrooms Different?

- In-person and/or interactive video-based instruction
- High definition video-conferencing devices
- High definition monitors and professional microphones
- Options for local and/or cloud-based video conferencing
- Document camera to show physical items/documents on display screens
- Laptop with stylus for teacher

## Technical Capabilities

- Live, interactive two-way audio and video
- Teachers can share their computer screen to remote sites
- Teacher can control configuration of screen(s)
- Teacher can record instruction, as necessary
- Buzz Learning Management System used to centralize learning content, grades, assessment, etc...
- Remote instruction and assistance available for remote students

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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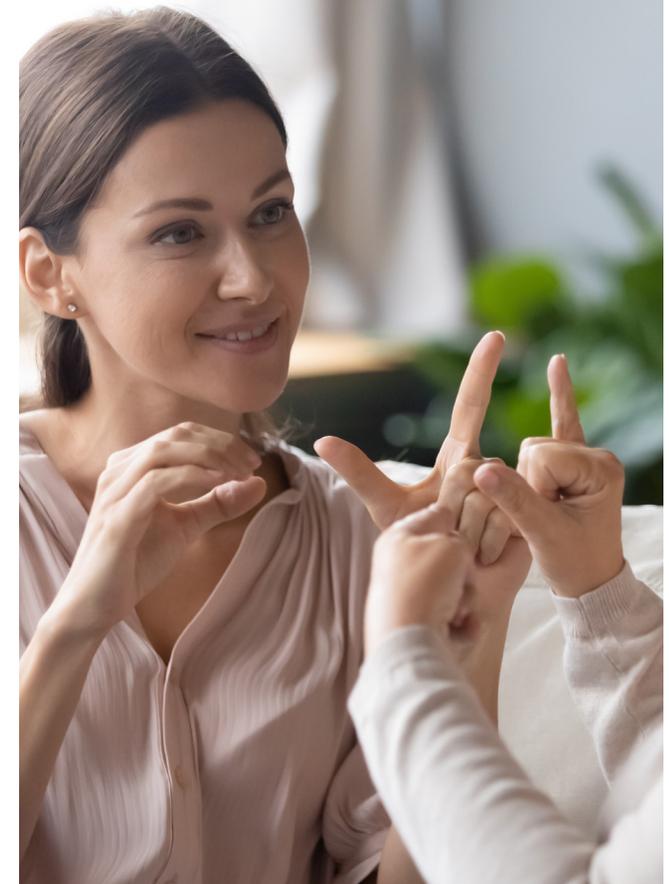
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## WHAT IS AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE?

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, natural language that has the same linguistic properties as spoken languages, with grammar that differs from English. ASL is expressed by movements of the hands and face. It is the primary language of many North Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing, and is used by many hearing people as well.

<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/american-sign-language>

## BACKGROUND

The Oneida-Herkimer-Madison (OHM) BOCES American Sign Language (ASL) program was created as a branch of our Interactive Video Courses (IVC) program in the early 2000s. The program was initially founded to fulfill basic instructional needs for Deaf students, hard of hearing students, and for hearing students who were interested in the language and culture of Deaf individuals. Since that time, our program has grown to provide four levels of instruction in American Sign Language to students in grades 8-12 and the opportunity for students to earn up to six (6) college credits.

The study of American Sign Language meets all criteria set forth by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) regarding the study of World Languages. Additionally, it is now common for colleges and universities to accept the study of ASL as a means to meet foreign language and culture requirements. The OHM BOCES ASL program has developed close partnerships with both Herkimer College and Onondaga Community College that have served to benefit our students by providing unique and new opportunities that enhance our program.

## SEQUENTIAL PROGRAM

*Grades 8-12*

### Level 1: Any grade, 8-12

- Meets all NYS World Languages Checkpoint A standards
- OHM BOCES Checkpoint A exam administered at the end of Level 1
- Students can earn one (1) unit of diploma credit, including satisfying the World Languages minimum requirement for New York State diploma. *Exam requirements apply to students in Grade 8.*

### Level 2: Any grade, 9-12

- Prerequisite: Level 1
- Students can earn one (1) unit of diploma credit

### Level 3: Any grade, 10-12

- Prerequisite: Level 2
- OHM BOCES Checkpoint B exam administered at the end of Level 3. *The exam can be used as an option to meet exam requirements (4+1 Pathways) required to earn a New York State diploma.*
- Dual-credit course:
  - Six (6) tuition-free college credits - *Herkimer College*
  - One (1) unit of diploma credit - *High School*

### Level 4: Grade 11 or 12

- Prerequisite: Level 3
- Earns one high school course credit
- Students will interact with the Deaf community through Deaf socials
- Course is mostly application of ASL skills and project-based learning
- Dual-credit course:
  - Six (6) tuition-free college credits - *Herkimer College*
  - One (1) unit of diploma credit - *High School*

## ELECTIVE COURSES

*Grades 8-12*

Any of the courses in our Sequential Program can be taken as elective courses by students, provided the prerequisites are met. This includes students who have already begun [and/or are continuing] their study of a different World Language.

## BY THE NUMBERS (2021)

- 4 Full-time teachers: Live instruction provided daily!
- Small class sizes! Many classes only have 8-10 students per school.
- Meet new friends! Nearly 250 students participate in our program across New York State.
- Flexible scheduling! Nearly 25 class sections are offered daily.

## RECOGNITION

In 2018, a committee of Deaf and non-deaf professors at Onondaga Community College (New York) reviewed the American Sign Language curriculum as well as the Checkpoint B assessments of OHM BOCES. Both were endorsed for their rigor and appropriateness in comparison to preparing students to study ASL in college.

In 2019, the New York State Office of Assessment approved OHM's Checkpoint B examination in American Sign Language for its Multiple Pathways to Graduation program. To date, no other examination in American Sign Language has earned this distinction.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

In the past, OHM BOCES has partnered with Deaf and non-deaf instructors in our region to provide input and support to create our annual Checkpoint examinations. Contributors have worked at such notable institutions and organizations such as Hamilton College, Onondaga Community College, Rome School for the Deaf, the New York State Office of Assessment, and Pearson Assessments.

