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Learning American Sign Language (ASL) in Virginia

The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) is pleased to provide you this listing of resources for learning American Sign Language (ASL) in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Some of the resources may be accessed free, while others may require a fee. This resource list includes information regarding community-based lessons and classes, which are usually led by members of local Deaf communities through private organizations. The resource list also includes information regarding college credited course work in ASL and/or interpreter training. ASL students work toward becoming fluent in ASL as a foreign language; interpreting students work toward competence in interpreting between ASL and English. This resource list also includes suggested websites where you may find lessons, videos, or apps for learning ASL. This list of resources is not meant to be exhaustive, and will be periodically updated.

VDDHH works to reduce the communication barriers between people who are Deaf or hard of hearing and those who are hearing, including family members, service providers, and the public. As part of this mission, our agency responds to requests for information and referrals regarding a variety of topics related to hearing loss including but not limited to assistive technology, communication methods, captioning, hearing aids, interpreting, telecommunications, and sign language. Please feel free to contact VDDHH by phone at (804) 662-9502, videophone at (804) 325-1290, or by email at info@vddhh.virginia.gov

We appreciate your interest in the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Disclaimer: The contents contained herein are provided as a courtesy for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as an endorsement by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH). VDDHH does not control, monitor or guarantee the accuracy or quality of the information, opinions, products, services, and resources offered by any organization listed herein. The VDDHH assumes no responsibility or liability for any damage or loss caused by or in connection with the use of or reliance on any information, opinion, product, service, or resource offered by any organization listed herein. Some fees may apply.

About American Sign Language

American Sign Language is a natural language, which may be received visually or through touch. ASL is the primary language of North Americans who are Deaf, but there are many other signed languages used throughout the world. ASL originated around 200 years ago through the mixing of sign language indigenous to the United States and French Sign Language. ASL is conveyed through hand and body movements, and facial expressions, and has its own grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, which are separate from English.

More information about American Sign Language (ASL) can be found through:

National Association of the Deaf <https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/what-is-american-sign-language/>

National Institute on Deafness <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/american-sign-language>

Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Sign_Language

Encyclopedia Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/topic/American-Sign-Language>

Community-Based American Sign Language Classes

Charlottesville

Independence Resource Center

815 Cherry Avenue

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Office: (434) 971-9629

Website: http://charlottesvilleirc.org/?page_id=64

Fairfax

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons

3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130

Fairfax, VA 22030

Office: (703) 352-9055

Website: <https://nvrc.org/nvrc-services/classes-workshops/>

Fishersville (Augusta County)

Fishersville Main Library

1759 Jefferson Highway

Fishersville, VA 22939

Office: (540) 885-3961

Website: <http://www.augustacountylibrary.org/classes-events/>

Check library calendar of events for current availability of classes

Fredericksburg

disAbility Resource Center

409 Progress Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Office: (540) 373-2559

Office: (540) 373-5890 (TTY)

Videophone: (540) 645-5378

Website: <https://www.cildrc.org/services-for-people-with-disabilities/>

Harrisonburg

Harrisonburg Park and Recreation

City Hall

409 South Main Street

Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office: (540) 432-7701

Website: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/activities>

ASL Courses periodically available; consult the current activity guide available online

Hampton

West Hampton Baptist Church

631 Aberdeen Road

Hampton, VA 23661

Office: (757) 826-5772

Email: office@whbcnow.org

Website: <http://whbcnow.org/sign-classes/>

Portsmouth/Hampton Roads

Day 2 Day ASL

Office: (757) 968-2121

Website: <https://day2dayasl.com/classes/>

Richmond

ASL Champs

The Mill House

7812 Shrader Lane

Richmond, VA 23294

Email: burtonx479@gmail.com

Website: www.aslchamps.org

Parent Child Advocate (PCA) Program

1503 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 211

Richmond, Virginia 23229

Office: (804) 282-1943

Office: (804) 282-1944 (TTY)

Email: PCAPROGRAM@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.challengediscoveryprojects.org/parent-child-advoate-program>

The PCA Program conducts monthly meetings for parents with children who are deaf or hard of hearing to come together for a time of family learning, food, and fun! Parents learn sign language communication skills while their children have social time and English language development games. PCA "Sign with Your Child" videos can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PCaprogram>

Staunton

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB)

Dr. Debbie Pfeiffer, Outreach Director

Office: (540) 414-5249

Email: Debbie.Pfeiffer@vsdb.k12.va.us

Website: <https://vsdb.k12.va.us/outreach/services/>

VSDB Outreach Services: serves children, families, and educators throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our goal is to help all educators in Virginia better meet the needs of students who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deaf blind, and their families. VSDB Outreach Services are funded through a grant from the Virginia Department of Education. ASL for the Family Video Series:

<https://vsdb.k12.va.us/outreach/asl-video/>

High Schools Offering American Sign Language Classes

Statewide information regarding ASL courses for High School Credit

Lisa A Harris, Ed.D.

Specialist for World Languages and International Education

Virginia Department of Education

Office: (804) 225-3666

Email: lisa.harris@doe.virginia.gov

**Colleges Offering American Sign Language (ASL) Classes
and/or Interpreter Training Program (ITP)**

Abingdon

Virginia Highlands Community College (ASL)

100 VHCC Drive

Abingdon, VA 24210

Office: (276) 739-2438

Website: <https://www.vhcc.edu/current-students/academic-resources/class-schedules/take-10>

Annandale

Northern Virginia Community College (ASL & ITP)

8333 Little River Turnpike

Annandale, VA 22003

Office: (703) 323-3192

Website: <https://www.nvcc.edu/annandale/lass/asl.html>

Charlottesville

University of Virginia (ASL)

P.O. Box 400808

258 New Cabell Hall

Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4808

Office: (434) 924-6691

Videophone (434) 566-0213

Fax: (434) 924-1478

Website: <http://asl.virginia.edu/asl-program>

Danville

Danville Community College (ASL)

1008 S. Main Street

Danville, VA 24541

Office: (434) 797-2222

Website: <http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/Departments/A&S/Academics/ASL.htm>

Fairfax

George Mason University (ASL)

College of Education and Human Development

4400 University Drive, MS 1F2

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Office: (703) 993-3670

Website: <https://gse.gmu.edu/special-education/american-sign-language>

Fredericksburg

Germanna Community College (ASL)

Fredericksburg Campus

P. O. Box 1430

Locust Grove, VA 22508

Office: (540) 891-3000

Website: <https://www.germanna.edu/pathways/public-service/american-sign-language-csc/>

Lynchburg

Liberty University (ASL & ITP)

1971 University Boulevard

Lynchburg, Virginia 24515

Office: (434) 592-5888

Email: ndthorn@liberty.edu

Website: <http://www.liberty.edu/academics/arts-sciences/modernlanguages/index.cfm?PID=28195>

Central Virginia Community College (ASL)

3506 Wards Road

Lynchburg, VA 24502-2498

Office: (434) 832-7657

Email: hss@centralvirginia.edu

Website: <https://centralvirginia.edu/Class-Schedule/Courses/American-Sign-Language>

Martinsville

Patrick Henry Community College (ASL)

645 Patriot Avenue

Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Office: (276) 638-8777

Website: <https://m.sis.vccs.edu/app/catalog/listSubjects>

Norfolk

Old Dominion University (ASL)

1004 Rollins Hall

Norfolk, VA 23529

Office: (757) 683-3685

Website:

[http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/dardencollegeofeducation/communicationdisordersspe
cialeducation](http://catalog.odu.edu/undergraduate/dardencollegeofeducation/communicationdisordersspe
cialeducation)

Tidewater Community College (ASL & ITP)

Green District Administration Building

121 College Place

Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Office: (757) 822-1122

Website: <https://m.sis.vccs.edu/app/catalog/listclasses/2193/ASL>

Radford

Radford University (ASL)

801 East Main Street

Radford, Virginia 24142

Office: (540) 831-5549

Website: [www.radford.edu/content/registrar/home/course-descriptions/cehd-
descriptions/sign-language.html](http://www.radford.edu/content/registrar/home/course-descriptions/cehd-
descriptions/sign-language.html)

Richmond

Reynolds Community College (ASL & ITP)

Parham Road Campus

1651 E. Parham Road

Richmond, Virginia 23228

Office: (804) 371-3000

Website: [www.reynolds.edu/onlinecatalog/current/academic-programs/degrees-career-
studies/american sign languagecsc 640-01.aspx](http://www.reynolds.edu/onlinecatalog/current/academic-programs/degrees-career-
studies/american_sign_languagecsc_640-01.aspx)

Roanoke

Virginia Western Community College (ASL)

3094 Colonial Avenue, SW

Roanoke, VA 24015

Office: (540) 857-8922

Website: <https://viriniawestern.edu/classes/index.php>

Virginia Beach

Adult Learning Center (ASL)

5100 Cleveland Street

Virginia Beach, VA

Office: (757) 648-6050

Website: <http://www.registration.adultlearning.vbschools.com/frnSearchCourses.aspx>

Warrenton

Lord Fairfax Community College (ASL)

Warrenton Campus

6480 College Street

Warrenton, VA 20187-8820

Office: (540) 351-1505

Website: <https://lfcc.edu/degree/american-sign-language/>

Wytheville

Wytheville Community College (ASL)

1000 East Main Street

Wytheville, VA 24382

Office: (276) 223-4700

Website: <https://www.wcc.vccs.edu/course/asl-101>

Online Resources**Websites**

Gallaudet University ASL Connect – <https://www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect>

ASL Connect is a central resource for learning ASL and about Deaf Studies online, with all content created by Deaf ASL-fluent scholars. We offer ways to learn some basic ASL online to get you started, and then we offer highly engaging and interactive ASL and Deaf Studies courses online.

ASL Deafined - <https://www.asldeafined.com/>
Lessons and ASL dictionary (some fees apply)

ASL Pro (ASL Dictionary) - www.aslpro.com

Described and Captioned Media Program - <https://dcmp.org/learn/510-asl-training-resources-for-parents-and-educators>

The Described and Captioned Media Program is the nation's leading source for accessible educational content, providing services for students who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. Families and school personnel with early learners through Grade 12 students can register for free access to over 6,000 Educational Media titles on-demand and on DVD. Our Learning Center contains a wealth of information related to education, accessibility, deafness, blindness, and other related topics.

Handspeak - <https://www.handspeak.com/>

Sign language resources and extracurricular ASL (American Sign Language) materials for language and culture enthusiasts, ASL students and learners, instructors and teachers, interpreters, homeschoolers, parents and professionals for practice or self-study.

Lifepoint - <http://www.lifepoint.com>

A resource site for ASL students and teachers. Here you will find information and resources to help you learn ASL and improve your signing skills.

www.MyDeafChild.org

This website includes the registration process for [Sign It ASL](#), a new online class that introduces parents to American Sign Language. It is an online class free of charge to families. To qualify, you must be:

- *a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child 36 months or younger*
- *currently residing in the United States*
- *willing to provide qualifying documentation*

Sign Language 101 - <http://www.signlanguage101.com/>

Sign On - www.signonconnect.com

A "Virtual Immersion Program," connects the hearing and Deaf communities through an authentic learning immersion interaction (some fees apply). For the parents of deaf children, there is also access to this program through <http://deafchildren.org/sign-on/>

Start ASL - www.startasl.com

YouTube Channels

ASL That - <https://www.youtube.com/user/chsasl/videos>

Laura Berg Life - <https://www.youtube.com/user/SmartHandsCA/videos>

Expert Village - <https://www.youtube.com/user/expertvillage/search?query=asl>

Dr. Bill Vicars - <https://www.youtube.com/user/billvicars>

ASL Apps for download

The ASL App - <https://www.theaslapp.com/>

ASL Coach - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/asl-coach-american-sign-language/id385799946>

ASL Fingerspelling - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/asl-fingerspelling-lifeprint-com/id605558017>

Marlee Signs - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/marlee-signs-learn-american/id566054855>

Mimix 3D - https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mindrocketsinc.mimix&hl=en_US