

YOUR FUTURE THROUGH CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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American Sign Language Standouts

On December 11, Auburn Riverside High School students in Cindy Anderson's American Sign Language (ASL) classes congregated at the SuperMall food court like they do most Tuesday evenings—to share a meal and conversation with the deaf community.

A little over four years ago, Ms. Anderson determined there was a need for her students to practice American Sign Language in a real-life setting, and to earn leadership and extra credit points. "It got going mostly by word of mouth," says Ms. Anderson. Ms. Anderson invited the deaf community to attend the silent dinner, and now many are regular attenders. Ricardo Velilla-Mirabel is a regular and enjoys the real-world learning environment. Ricardo signs, "Students learn when they rely on their signing skills, not their voices. It's important they practice in a setting where they use their eyes and expressions to communicate."

Ms. Anderson concurs. "When students learn to turn off their voices, which they are more apt to do within a deaf community, they pick up the signs and the language more quickly." This is often referred to as immersion, which is typically an opportunity

for language learners to learn from native speakers.

The silent dinners are so helpful to students that many keep coming back for more practice—and for the relationships formed with the deaf community. Kenny Riley, a student in Ms. Anderson's ASL class, says, "The conversations are interesting, and I feel like signing with students who know more than me and the deaf community really help me learn better." Kassy McDonough, another student from Auburn Riverside, enjoys stepping outside the classroom to practice the language. "It's fun to be able to sign to people who experience the language daily."

And it's not just the language Ms. Anderson is teaching her ASL students. "Acquiring foreign language is also about learning cultural nuances, customs and traditions, which the students do get a taste of at the silent dinners."

American Sign Language is the third most commonly used language in the United States and has been considered a true foreign language since the 1960s. Students



Auburn Riverside High School ASL teacher Cindy Anderson signs to her class.

enrolled in ASL earn Career and Technical Education credit in addition to foreign language credit.

Ms. Anderson's classroom is an interactive environment. From signing songs to playing vocabulary games, Ms. Anderson initiates learning using a project-based curriculum. Her ASL students also participate in a variety of community outreach activities including volunteer work with Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities (TACID) and the Service Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Not to mention the silent dinners.



Two members of the deaf community and an Auburn Riverside student share a conversation.

LEGAL NOTICE: The Auburn School District No. 408 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, or disability, and does not tolerate sexual harassment. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Any reports of alleged sexual harassment or concerns about compliance and/or grievance procedures should be directed to the school district's Title IX RCW 28A.640 officer and Section 504 and ADA coordinator, Tim Cummings, 915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, Washington 98002. (253) 931-4932.

Welcome New CTE Staff

Lisa Greer

CTE Administrative Assistant, Department of Student Learning

Lisa Greer recently accepted the CTE administrative assistant position. Her primary duties include overseeing the CTE budget and supporting the director of career and technical education and athletics Rob Swaim.

"I find it very interesting to assist the teachers in getting their orders completed accurately and correctly," says Ms. Greer. Ms. Greer is also the go-to person for anything related to field trips, staff work schedules and other logistics.

In addition to supporting Rob Swaim, Ms. Greer is also a support person for Rod Luke, executive director, K-12 learning, and Cindi Blansfield, director, secondary student learning, in the department of student learning.



Ms. Greer began working in the Auburn School District as a substitute and was then hired in the Title LAP program at Hazelwood Elementary School. After six years, Ms. Greer left Hazelwood for Gildo Rey Elementary School and was the office assistant for one year before she accepted her current position.

Noreen Kebba

Health, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, West Auburn High School

Noreen Kebba is returning to teaching after a 13-year break, yet she has maintained her ties by substituting for the district for the past decade.

Ms. Kebba recognizes that her best contribution to the program at West Auburn will be to make the curriculum and learning come alive for the students. "I do this by being passionate about the subject material and bringing all of their senses into the learning. This is the beauty of food science—the sight, the taste, the feel, the aroma of meal

creation. I enjoy sharing the science of healthy eating and secrets of longevity. This is the best way to develop the whole person. Everything I do, I try and tie it to a life lesson or back to the students' core academics, emphasizing reading, writing and math," remarks Ms. Kebba.

Ms. Kebba has over 10 years of experience in health, family and consumer sciences at both the high school and middle school levels. One of Ms. Kebba's impressive stints was at Sylvester Middle School in Burien, where she helped to rebuild the entire home economics department, from design of the classroom to curriculum development. Most importantly, Ms. Kebba is known for her natural ability to turn a basic classroom into a warm, friendly and safe environment for the students and other faculty to visit.



Noreen Kebba and students show off their delightful Malo Bars, a chocolate-marshmallow-peanut butter-crispy rice treat the students prepared in class.

Lyn Morris

Health, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Auburn High School

Lyn Morris joined the Auburn High School staff in January 2007. Her passions are interior design and fashion design, and she also teaches careers with children and health. While each subject has a different focus, Ms. Morris keeps it real by offering her students the chance to work

on real-life projects. For instance, Ms. Morris's interior design students will be working on a home décor project of their choice this school year. "The students will learn principles and elements of design and how it impacts living space. Then they'll get to design a private space of their choice, like their bedroom or bathroom," says Ms. Morris. For the final project students will be given a scenario of a family's needs, and based on that information, they will design a starter home for the family.

Ms. Morris also encourages her students to participate in community outreach. As part of their grade, students are responsible for applying their education outside the classroom. While students in careers with children may work in a daycare setting, students in interior design and fashion design may opt to participate in the Sew Caring group, which is a group of students who joined together to make aprons to distribute to the Auburn Food Bank staff.

"I adore the kids and am just having fun," remarks Ms. Morris.



Ms. Morris demonstrates icing techniques for her students to practice on their holiday gingerbread houses.

Electronics Certification Program

Now in its second year of being an official testing facility for the Electronics Service Associate (ESA) certification program, Auburn Riverside High School is offering the certification program to both beginning and advanced students. According to Auburn Riverside electronics instructor Frank Medina, "Students start learning the material from year one, so it makes sense to offer them the opportunity right away."

Mike Fawcett, electronics instructor at Auburn Mountainview High School, is creating the infrastructure necessary to offer ESA certification. "Students are already preparing for the tests that will be offered later this school year," says Mr. Fawcett. Electronics instructor Chris Zawislak at Auburn High School is preparing for ESA certification too. Auburn High will begin offering the program in the 2008-09 school year.

The ESA certification program is the standard choice for the electronics industry, which consists of four different levels of testing: Direct Current (DC)—how electronics use low voltage batteries; Alternating Current (AC)—how electricity is created; Semiconductor Fundamentals—how different components make circuitry work; and Digital Electronics—how electronics are used in today's digital world. Each test costs \$35. For students in need, the electronics advisory committee, comprised of local businesspeople, offers scholarships. Additionally, students who compete in the SkillsUSA national competition can take the entire exam for free.

Students earn the overall Associate Certified Electronics Technician (CET) certificate by tackling all four levels in one exam, or they earn certification one level at a time by taking individual certification exams. Students who pass individual exams earn an industry standard ESA certification for that level. Students who earn individual and overall certification have the advantage of logging certified electronic education hours to market to prospective employers and/or higher education admissions offices. In addition, students can use their certification as a best works or "personal artifact" in their senior portfolios.

Currently, six students in the Auburn Riverside High School electronics program have earned one or more ESA certifications.

They include:

Brian Bosch, DC and Digital Electronics

Lucas Brazell, DC

Alex Cox, Digital Electronics

Josh Melheim, Digital Electronics

Tom Richardson, DC

Ashley Stamper, DC

Mr. Medina believes more students will take advantage of the certification program. Because the class curriculum covers what is on the exams, earning certification is the next logical step for many students. "Being certified looks great on a resume, whether a student's going straight into industry or college," says Mr. Medina.

Brian Bosch (pictured upper right) and Ashley Stamper (pictured right) are building electronic kits, which require the students to follow procedures, read schematics and solder the components together.



Competition Corner

To cap off the 2006-07 school year, a number of CTE students traveled to national competitions after qualifying at state.

Kyle Ridge and Sean Ridge from Auburn Riverside High School competed at the National Technology Student Association competition in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 23-28. Kyle competed in Radio Controlled Robotics, CO2 Dragster Design, Transportation Modeling, Structural Engineering and Technology Problem Solving. Sean Ridge competed in 3D CAD Engineering, Radio Controlled Robotics, CO2 Dragster Design, Transportation Modeling, Structural Engineering and Technology Problem Solving. The duo's best finish was Sean Ridge's fifth place medal in 3D CAD Engineering.

Jason Berg (pictured right), now an alumnus of Auburn High School, traveled to the SkillsUSA National Championships in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 24-30 to compete in Power Equipment Technology. According to Jason, "I competed against 40 other state qualifiers. Our task was to troubleshoot, diagnose and repair small gas engines like lawnmowers and weed eaters. I learned a lot more about troubleshooting at Nationals." Currently Jason provides basic car care service at Valley Pontiac Buick GMC.

Kyle Gray, an Auburn High School cabinetry student, also traveled to the SkillsUSA National Championships to compete in cabinetmaking. Kyle tested his skills against 50 other competitors from across the nation.



Jewelry 101

There is never a dull moment in Dorin Meinhart's Jewelry I class at Auburn Mountainview High School. Students are just beginning to indulge their creativity with projects like wax casting.

This month students are completing a unit on lost wax casting. "Essentially students carve out a design in wax that is then cast into bronze," says Ms. Meinhart. For the first project, every student carves out their initials or a letter in wax. Next the wax is burned out in a kiln or furnace overnight. What remains is a mold that is cast into bronze.

In order to create the bronze letters, students are charged with heating up molten bronze with an oxy propane torch. Then they shoot the bronze into the mold using a drum-like spinning device. "The great thing about this process is by making things with wax the end result is an exact metal duplicate," says Ms. Meinhart. "The dental industry uses wax casting to make fillings because of its accuracy."

The students' end products are metallic bronze 3-D letters that can be made into necklaces and other jewelry items. After students successfully complete their first project, their next assignment will be to cast a ring from wax into metal.

Dorin Meinhart (right) displays the finished product, bronze letters, from the wax casting project.



A Jewelry I student (above) heats molten bronze using an oxy propane torch.



Cameron Allen (above) thoroughly cleans the casting to reveal the solid bronze finish.



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