

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Middle School Course Outline

**Course Title:** Manual Communications (One Semester)  
**Grade Level:** 7, 8  
**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:**

This course is offered to students who are interested in learning about communication with the deaf. Manual Communications is offered only at South Middle School because of the availability of staff from the SELACO program for deaf students on that campus. The course will include a basic introduction to deafness, a brief introduction to the way the ear functions, and a study of the language of sign and finger spelling.

**Student Performance Objectives for this Course:**

Students will

1. label the various parts of the ear.
2. demonstrate an understanding of the differences between hearing loss caused by nerve damage and hearing loss caused by a mechanical failure in the outer or inner ear.
3. list several causes of deafness.
4. finger spell words and sentences by using the Rochester Method of finger spelling.
5. demonstrate the ability to “read” words and sentences as they are finger spelled to him/her.
6. be able to perform signs for words commonly used in manual communications of the deaf.
7. be able to read simple sentences presented in the language of signs.
8. gain a knowledge of ways to continue his/her interest in the deaf.
9. display improvements in the speed, smoothness, and clearness of his/her finger spelling and signs as measured by teacher observation.