



Jon Cofinas

American Sign Language Teacher

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Department: World Language

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STAFF BIO

What would happen if you combined drawing, map making, origami, puzzles, ancient games, neuroscience, history, and Charlie Chaplin, into one class? You'd get my *American Sign Language* class, of course. In *ASL* class, not only are you going to learn to converse in one of the coolest languages on the planet, but your hand-eye-brain relationship will never be the same again. You will become more visually astute, more keen at processing and interpreting visual information. More perceptive. But don't worry, you won't even notice it's happening, as all you will remember is the fun.

And all of this fun takes place in an amazing learning environment - a classroom filled with artwork, traffic signs, classic games and toys, open-ended manipulatives, dolls, vintage typewriters, and a thousand books. Great tools for working on one's focus, single-tasking, and social interactions with peers. And get this, none of it involves a screen.

Wow, all this sounds fascinating. What kind of fascinating person could teach a course like this? Well, I'll tell you. My name is Jon Cofinas. I'm a former filmmaker, comedian, luthier, and interpreter, who's apparently doing this now. I have my Single-Subject Teaching Credential in ASL and Masters of Education, which makes me very smart. I grew up playing soccer in New Jersey, I spent the 90's in Chicago, and now I live in a tiny house at the beach. I also learned recently that my Greek blood runs clear back to ancient Sparta, so I wouldn't mess with me.

Today's young people are insightful and creative and totally hilarious, and that's why I love working with them. Any questions about the course or pedagogy, or typewriters, feel free to reach out.

JC

LINKS

<https://portfolium.com/JonCofinas>

EDUCATION

National University

2020 - 2023

Masters of Education, Social-Emotional Learning

*Single-Subject Teaching Credential in American Sign Language

Columbia College Chicago

1997 - 1998

Bachelors of Arts, ASL/English Interpretation

CANYON HILLS HIGH SCHOOL



ABOUT CANYON HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

VISION

Canyon Hills High School is a diverse community of active learners, inclusive of all people and voices, committed to preparing our students to be lifelong independent learners ready for the complexities and challenges of tomorrow.

MISSION

We embrace our diverse community and promote equity, inclusion, respect, and self-advocacy. We achieve academic success, without feeling the pressure of conformity, by engaging in complex issues with creativity and collaboration to support our growth and learning.

Core Values (How do we live our mission to achieve our vision?)

Equity

We create and learn in our culturally responsive and inclusive classroom communities.

We empower students to express their ideas and voice.

We celebrate and raise up unique ways of learning.

We open access and provide equitable support through our systems to promote success for all.

We do not exclude or create barriers for some by ensuring our systems and policies are inclusive.

Belonging

We embrace diversity in a multiethnic world.

We feel valued, seen, and included.

We welcome all in a safe environment.

We model respect and place relationships at the forefront.

We support our students' emotional and academic needs in partnership with families and the community.

Thriving

We hold high expectations for ourselves and our students.

We teach relevant academics and skills that promote success beyond high school.

We create student-centered, academically challenging environments.

We promote self-advocacy and ownership of learning.

We provide multiple pathways to success.

We measure our growth and success over time as a means of continuous improvement.

HELPFUL LINKS

[Canyon Hills High School's Home Page](#)

<https://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/canyonhills>

Principal Renfree's Blog

<https://serrahighschool.wixsite.com/blog>

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