North Dakota School for the Deaf
Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Model school for children who are deaf or hard of hearing

NDSD/RCDHH will celebrate DEAF AWARENESS WEEK
September 23-29, 2018

Connie’s Celebrations

The last week in September is Deaf Awareness Week. This is a time of year that we at NDSD/RCDHH plan special activities to celebrate Deaf Awareness Week.

We celebrate the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act signed by President George Bush in July 1990, the broadest legislative bill concerning the civil rights of people with disabilities. The Act made discrimination based on disability illegal in employment, public transportation, public programs, telecommunications, and public accommodations such as restaurants, hotels, shopping centers and offices.

For deaf people, the law provided access to the telephone and public events such as festivals, tours, and plays. Doctor's appointments and other meetings became more accessible through interpreting services, and captions became a requirement for the television programs, rental videos, and some publicly shown films.

There are still areas where individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing do not have access to adequate communication to meet their needs. The Outreach Programs at NDSD/Resource Center is an advocate for the deaf community and can provide training on “The Impact of Hearing Loss” and how to meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Outreach specialist from NDSD/RCDHH present at schools, daycares, businesses, hospitals, law enforcement, assistive living facilities and other agencies. To learn more or to set up a training for your staff, call us at 701-665-4400.
NDSD/RCDHH Hosts Deaf Awareness Week Activities
By Lilia Bakken, Communications

Each September, the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NDSD/RCDHH) celebrates National Deaf Awareness week. This year’s theme for DAW is “With Sign Language, Everyone is Included”. Students and staff plan activities to help raise awareness about hearing loss and its impact on the lives of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The activities also help draw attention to the unique contributions that deaf/hard of hearing people bring to our society.

The following activities will be hosted on campus at NDSD/RCDHH:
- tours of the campus
- basic sign language classes
- distribution of DAW items that bring awareness to issues related to hearing loss
NDSD/RCDHH outreach specialists in Devils Lake, Bismarck, Fargo, Minot, and Grand Forks are also planning local and statewide awareness events.

For more information on Deaf Awareness Week events, free sign language classes, or other available resources or services, call 1-701-665-4400, toll free 1-800-887-2980 or visit https://www.nd.gov/ndsd/.

Why Celebrate Deaf Awareness??

The purpose of Deaf Awareness Week is to increase public awareness of deaf issues, people, and culture. Activities and events throughout Deaf Awareness Week encourage individuals to come together as a community for both Educational events and celebrations.
The DAW shirts have arrived!

Students were excited to unpack shirts they will be sporting during Deaf Awareness Week, Sept. 23-29.

Tips for Communicating With People Who Are Deaf/ Hard of Hearing

- Obtain the person's attention before trying to communicate.
- Make sure lighting is good; bright enough to see well but not creating shadows on the speaker's face or shining directly in the other person's eyes.
- Speak clearly and at a normal volume. Do not exaggerate mouth movements or facial expressions. Do not block the view of your mouth with things such as pens, books or your hands.
- Check for understanding. If there is a breakdown in communication, figure out another way to say, spell, or write down the main ideas.

Sign Language Resources

Startasl.com

DLTK-teach.com
Has free printable manual letter coloring pages at http:www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/asm/

http://www.icansign.com/
$12.00 membership for full access, however, this site has many free printable's such as Sign Language UNO, Sign Language Snakes and Ladders, Sign Language deck of cards, dominos, scrabble, alphabet and word flash cards, etc.
Adult Services

The Adult Outreach team works largely with older adults who are losing their hearing for the first time. Often these individuals are not aware of the many assistive devices that are available.

Here are some devices that may be used for people with hearing loss. **Pocket Talkers** and **Comfort Duetts** can amplify sound. These devices are also able to change the tone of sound. Like hearing aids, background noise is often a drawback, but they work great for one-on-one conversations. Hearing aids are expensive and these devices may work when hearing aids are not an option.

An **FM system** works on radio waves and is an excellent way to communicate individually, however, it’s ideal in groups. We use these systems across the State at our Hearing Loss Resource Groups, with excellent results. Many churches and schools are using these systems. Background noise is seldom an issue, as the sound travels from the microphone right to your ear.

**Amplified telephones** are used by many people in North Dakota to provide good communication and access to emergency numbers. There are a variety of Amplified and **Captel phones** available through the Telecommunications grant, at **ND Assistive**.

There are several **APPs** that can be downloaded to phones or tablets to improve communication. You can even turn your **smart phone** into a personal listening device. It will act like a Pocket Talker, and provide the amplification needed. The sound quality isn’t as good, but it may work in a pinch.

If you have any questions, please call us at 665-4401.
The beautiful fall weather beckoned us out of the library and into nature. We read that pine cones protect the seeds of evergreen trees and then explored the outdoors to find that cones grow on the branches and eventually fall to the ground. There is much to be discovered with pine cones, like small bugs that live in the scales, that they smell of sap, and that they open up as they dry. Best of all, pine cones are really fun to paint and make a lovely centerpiece.

Phishing

Phishing is when an attacker attempts to fool you into clicking on a malicious link or opening an attachment in an email. Be suspicious of any email or online message that creates a sense of urgency, has bad spelling or addresses you as "Dear Customer."

Don’t Trust Links Sent in

A common method cyber criminals use to hack into people’s computers is to send these phishing emails with malicious links. People are tricked into opening these links because they appear to come from someone or something they know and trust. If you click on a link, you may be taken to a site that attempts to harvest your information or tries to hack into your computer. Only click on links that you were expecting. Not sure about an email? Call the person to confirm they sent it.

Tech Tidbits by:
Kerry Olson-Rysavy,
Technology Coordinator
**Mission Statement**

NDSD/RCDHH shall serve as a State Resource Center to provide advocacy, leadership and educational expertise for all individuals in North Dakota who are deaf or hard of hearing.

---

**Model school for children who are deaf or hard of hearing**

NDSD/RCDHH includes a model school, preschool through 8th grade, that serves North Dakota students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The school provides tuition-free, comprehensive day, and residential programs that identify, implement, and model best practices.

The school provides early access and acquisition of language, and auditory instruction.

Collaboration with students, families, communities and government agencies is a vital part of the program.

---

**NDSD/RCDHH**

1401 College Dr. N  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

Phone/TTY: 701-665-4400  
Toll Free: 1-800-887-2980  
Fax: 1-701-665-4409  
Email: ndsd.school@k12.nd.us