Relax and get ready to have a great year! Having a student who is deaf/hard of hearing (DHH) can be an opportunity to learn about a new culture as well as a new language! It can also provide a chance for you to enhance your teaching skills in a way that will benefit all students. Here are some things to think about before meeting and working with your DHH student.

- Begin by thoroughly reading your student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Specifically look for:
  - Your student’s preferred mode of communication (ASL, SEE, auditory/oral, or other).
  - Your student’s language level. A student’s success in academics, as well as social activities, is highly dependent on his/her language level.
  - Your student’s use of and benefit from assistive technology (cochlear implants, hearing aids, FM systems, other).
  - Other staff who work with your student. This may include a DHH teacher, an interpreter, a speech-language pathologist, and/or an audiologist. These professionals, as well as the student’s parents, can be valuable resources to you as you work with your student.

- Make sure your student has access to all communication. If your student uses sign language, make sure an interpreter is available to interpret academic and social conversations. If your student uses auditory/oral communication, make sure he/she is within an appropriate listening range and has assistive technology that is working properly. In either situation, ensure your student has visual access to the speaker(s).

- Request and expect that all students speak one at a time during group and whole class activities. It will be important to establish this on the first day of school. This will allow your DHH student to have the most visual and auditory access to the discussion.

For more information, contact the KSD Outreach team at:

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KSD Outreach Mission: To provide the highest quality of services, resources, and support to children ages birth-21 who are deaf/hard of hearing by collaborating with their families, their communities, and the professionals that serve them.