

Getting Inspired

Inspirisles RPG in the Middle School Classroom

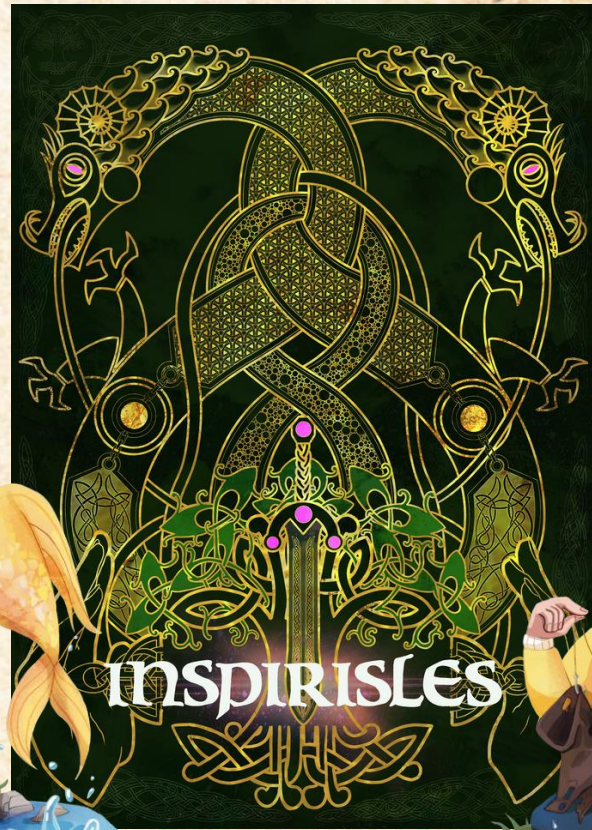
Rich Oxenham & Maryanne Cullinan



What is Inspirisles?

INSPIRISLES is a tabletop RPG created for all ages. It aims to promote **empathy, life skills** and **deaf awareness** with an emphasis on teamwork and creativity.

We have integrated the learning of American and British **sign language** seamlessly with the game and all material on the page is complemented by professional **video tutorials**. The team now welcomes six creatives from the **d/Deaf community**.



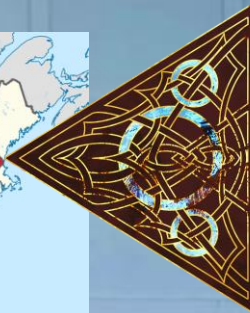
Who are the students?

12-14 year olds

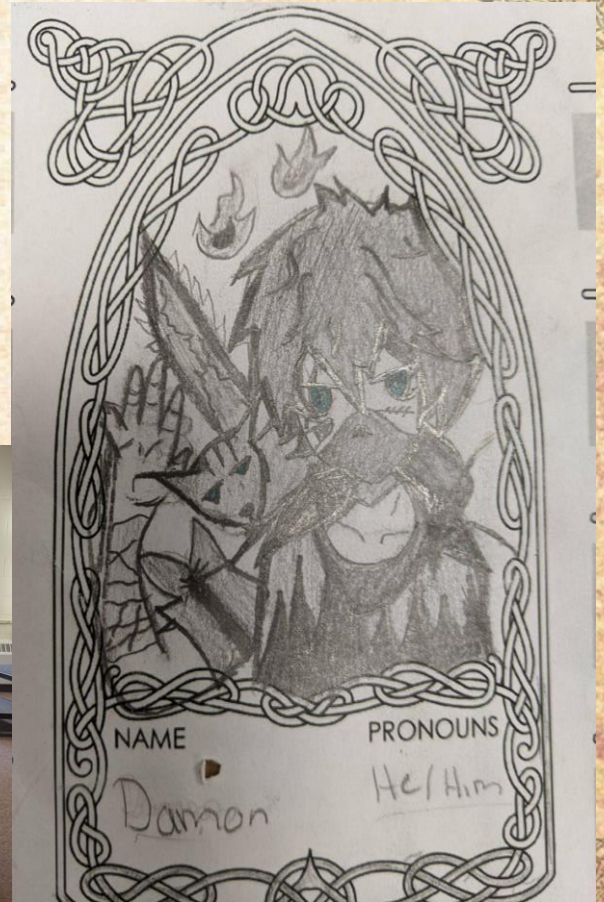
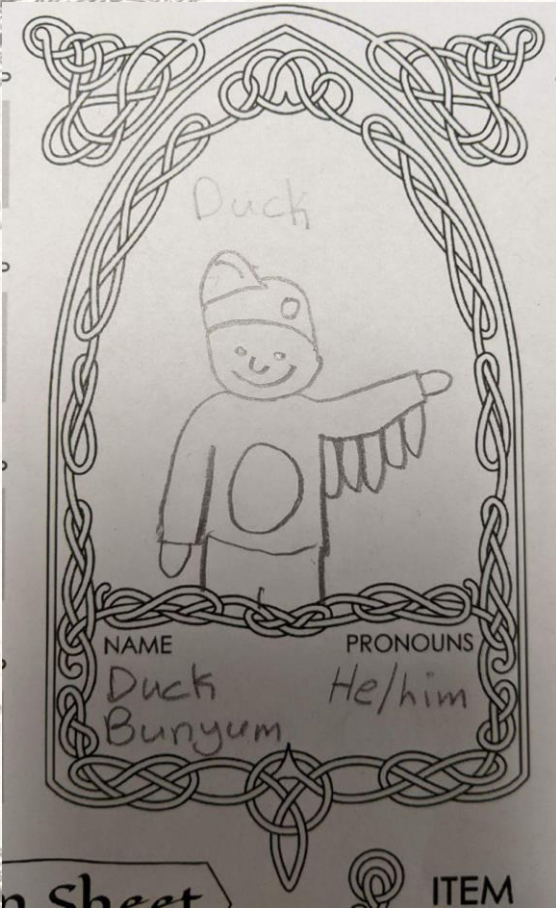
Rural New Hampshire School of 245

45 day class - 50 mins per day

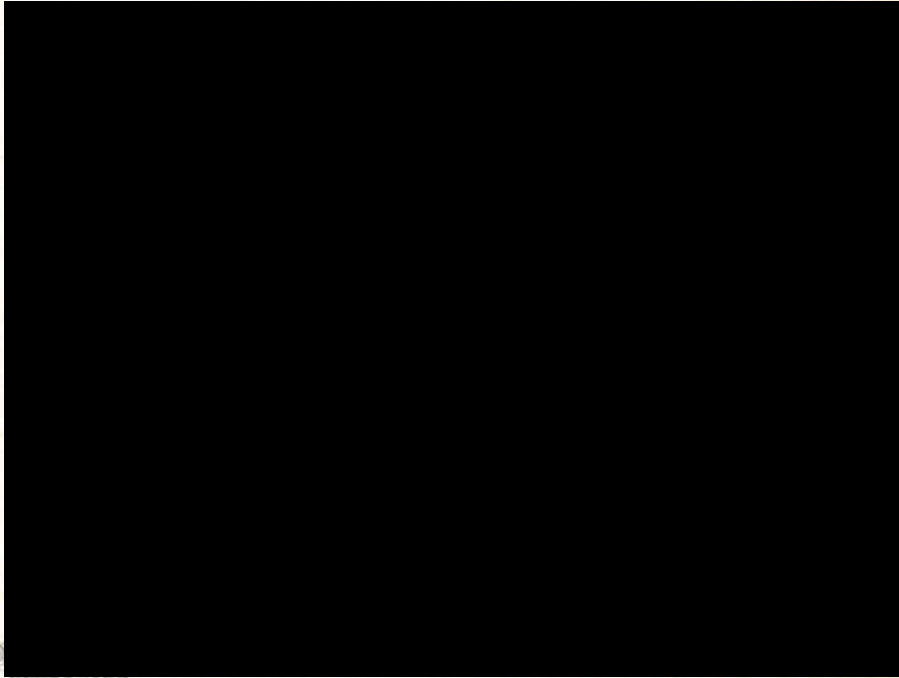
Hearing students



Children create their Pendragon characters, including **names**, which is their first opportunity to learn **fingerspelling** and the **alphabet**. The sheet also has space for players to **draw** their character.



The game works as an **inspirational** tool to **encourage further learning** beyond the core material. Here they are describing Mermicorns



What did we learn?

- Alphabet
- 50-100 signs
- Awareness and respect for Deaf culture
- Gameplay
- Group work
- Breaks from play - toys, basic tag games, improv



What is your experience so far as a Grail Guide?

My experience so far has been really fun and it is really awesome to be able to make people do things that teach them sign language. It has been really great being a leader and having these strange conversations where we flirt and try to get people in the game to do what we want. We do a lot of things like save little animals from the wrath of crazy hunter people that want to kill them. We love trying to help people and definitely having strange conversations.



My favorite things about this class is the hands-on learning, I say I'm a visual learner and I like how Mrs. Cullinan actually shows I also like how we all were learning new things about signs together teach others the new sign.



Emerging Research

- Fun and engaging
- Learned cultural awareness - Deaf culture and beyond
- Interest in foreign languages
- Change in classroom power dynamics
- Co-learning



Image Citations

Map of location of New Hampshire in USA
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:TUBS>

CC BY-SA 3.0 File: New Hampshire in United States.svg
Created: 30 July 2011

Classroom photos by M. Cullinan

All images of students and student work by permission of parents and students

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