



DePaul School for Hearing and Speech

Where Children with Hearing Impairments Speak Miracles

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About DePaul

- ✚ **DePaul School for Hearing and Speech**, established in 1908 by the Diocese of Pittsburgh Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill as DePaul Institute, is a State Approved Private School dedicated to auditory/oral education. As a non-profit, non-denominational school, DePaul's mission is to prepare deaf and hard of hearing children, from birth to age 17, to fully participate in our hearing and speaking world.
- ✚ DePaul School for Hearing and Speech is one of only 46 schools in North America, and the only one in western Pennsylvania, using the auditory/oral method of teaching. Auditory/oral education teaches children with hearing loss to listen and talk. The goal is to give children the necessary spoken language skills to be successful in the mainstream of education and function independently in the hearing world.
- ✚ We currently serve over 80 children, newborn to age 17, in southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia through our home-based and center-based services. Approximately 60% of our students, age 3 and older, have cochlear implants.
- ✚ DePaul students typically mainstream to regular educational settings when they have developed the speech, language, academic and social skills to be successful. DePaul's Mainstream Coordinator collaborates with receiving school personnel about providing the best possible teaching techniques with respect to acoustical environments and hearing supports.
- ✚ DePaul's programs are free to parents and caregivers of approved students. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Allegheny County subsidize a portion of the tuition. We rely on the generosity of foundations, corporations and individuals to fund the remaining costs.
- ✚ DePaul offers a comprehensive curriculum aligned with state and federal standards. Subjects include reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, art and music.
- ✚ DePaul's newly renovated library houses several thousand books, periodicals and DVDs. In keeping with DePaul's commitment to technology, students also have access to basic and advanced educational and multimedia programs via workstations in every classroom as well as a dedicated computer lab.

About Our Programs

Parent-Infant Program (Home-Based)

At DePaul School for Hearing and Speech we understand that parents are the first and most important teachers. Our experienced teachers of the deaf are available to go into the homes of children ages birth to 3 and work with the entire family. We show parents ways to naturally develop the speech and language of their child through talking, listening, and playing. We also provide families with information regarding hearing loss and use of hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Toddler-Parent Program (Center-Based)

The toddler program services children ages 18 months to 3 years and focuses on auditory and language development. Children receive daily individual speech/language therapy and auditory training sessions with a speech/language pathologist. Children also participate in small group activities with a certified teacher of the deaf.

Preschool Program

Children, between the ages of 3 - 5, attend full-day classes 5 days per week. The curriculum is designed to facilitate the development of auditory, speech and language skills. Early academic, fine/gross motor and personal/social skills development is also emphasized.

Primary, Secondary and High School Programs

The school curriculum is closely aligned with state and national standards in all academic areas.

Emphasis is placed on the development of reading and written language skills which best promote academic progress. All students receive social and self advocacy skills to prepare them for success as they move into the mainstream environment.

Summer Program

During June and July, children enrolled in our programs through the academic year may participate in our Summer Program which meets Monday - Thursday mornings.

Clinical Services

Audiological/Cochlear Implant

DePaul's full-time audiologist provides technological support and expertise to our students, ensuring optimal auditory access throughout the school day. Services include on-site cochlear implant programming ("mapping"), fitting and maintenance of FM equipment and loaning/troubleshooting of cochlear implant speech processors and hearing aids. Periodic audiological assessments are performed to monitor each student's auditory speech perception development and speechreading skills.

Speech & Language

DePaul's audiologist and speech language pathologists work closely with certified teachers of the deaf to develop an integrated program for each student with a focus on daily speech therapy sessions.

Physical & Occupational Therapy/Counseling

Physical and occupational screening, therapy and consultative services are offered. An educational psychologist is also available for on-site testing and counseling.

Other Services

Mainstreaming

DePaul monitors each of our students following placement in the mainstream setting to facilitate a successful transition. Our transition coordinator works with staff from the receiving school to ensure that optimal academic and acoustical supports (sound fields, FM sets, etc.) are in place.

Family Services

At DePaul, we believe that strong support for our families is the key to our students' success. Our free programs are open to all families who have children with hearing loss. DePaul's parent support groups allow family members to meet and discuss the challenges and concerns they face. A certified counselor is present during these sessions to help facilitate discussion.