

Partnership Spotlight: Butler University

This fall, our preschool & primary school students aren't the only ones heading back to class. With the start of the fall semester in late August, the first cohort of Butler University's new Master of Arts in Deaf Education is officially underway.

This landmark program is shaped in the memory of the exceptional Deaf Education programs at Fontbonne University, a St. Louis-based institution founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet which closed in 2025. According to their website, "Butler is proud to continue this vital work, drawing upon Fontbonne's proven foundation to inform its own program."

Indianapolis preschool teacher Sarah Mills is a member of this year's cohort. "I feel incredibly grateful to be a part of the new Butler program. I have already found the courses to be collaborative and insightful," Mills said. "It's a wonderful thing to work alongside a group of people who share my passion. I love teaching at St. Joseph, and I'm looking forward to building my knowledge so I can better serve my students."



Sarah Mills talks with a St. Joseph preschool student.

St. Joseph will serve as a leading partner program, offering experiential learning and field experience opportunities to students. "Strong personnel preparation



Dr. Jenna Voss (left) with St. Joseph CEO Lindy Powell.

requires more than excellent coursework- it requires meaningful opportunities to connect theory to practice," said Program Director Dr. Jenna Voss. "Our partnership with St. Joseph is central to the success of this program. Students are able to bridge academic learning with clinical and educational experiences that strengthen their skills in Listening and Spoken Language, family-centered early intervention, collaboration, and inclusive practices."