Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Heartland Christian School

Provider No.: 50795

Address: 400 Wright Road, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

County: Pottawattamie

Director's Name: Dorene Dingus

On-Site Supervisor: Angela Katzenstein

Phone Number: 7123225817

E-Mail: dallen@heartlandchristiancbia.org

HHS Visit Date: 06/29/2026

Licensing Period: 08/01/2025 to 08/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/21/2023

Comments: Fire inspections are due every three years. Please get me a new fire inspection by 8/21/26.

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [ ] Licensing Visit
- [X] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

Health and Human Services

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Tuesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Wednesday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Thursday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Friday	7:30 AM to 5:30 PM		
Saturday			

Program Population Served:

- [ ] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [ ] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General			60	40	100
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

An unannounced licensing visit was made to Heartland Christian School on 6/29/26. The program offers preschool, after school child care, and full day child care services in the summer and holiday breaks for preschool and school age children. The hours are 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. There are 23 children enrolled in the summer program. The program opened on 8/22/19. Roberta Schadde is the Principal of the elementary school. Dorene Dingus is the director, but she is retiring and currently training a new director. The new director is a Pre-K teacher. Dorene has an Associate's Degree in Arts and was a registered child care provider in her home for twelve years. She is a preschool teacher. I met with on-site supervisor Angela Katzenstein on my visit.

Observation of rooms:
There are three programming rooms. Two programming rooms were being used on the day of my visit. There is a Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, and after care room which is for 6th grade and under that are used during the school year. The gym, chapel, library, and commons areas can also be utilized. In the summer they use the Pre-K 4 room, the aftercare room, and the gym. They were having circle time and completing an art project. Some of the kids were napping and others were participating in free play. The curriculum for the younger children during the summer is called Building on The Rock and during the school year it is Abeka which is Christian based. Staff create their own lesson plans. Toys are rotated frequently. The staff prepare the lesson plans/activities. They have lesson plans in each room. Staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The center uses the Brightwheel App.

Nutrition:
During the school year the children bring their lunches and they are refrigerated. Daily snack is provided by the center. The children have the option of purchasing school lunches on fundraiser days. During the summer the children bring their lunch

and two snacks which are refrigerated. The refrigerator has a thermometer. Angela said they follow the CACFP food guidelines even though they aren't on the federal food program. Proper food storage was observed.

Health and safety:
Monthly fire and tornado drills are practiced and documented. Radon testing is required by your school. Make sure your test scores are under 4.0 pCi/L. The last radon testing the center has documented was in September 2021 and the reading was in the acceptable range. The center has first aid kits in every Pre-K room. The center doesn't administer medications except for emergency medications. They have one child who is diabetic who has an emergency kit with food and drinks. Staff know the medication procedures. The building has all electrical appliances. The center has their emergency preparedness procedures. The children have nap mats that are laid out in the napping room and are left in the same place for the entire week. The bedding is sent home weekly for the families to wash and return on Mondays. The center uses bleach water for sanitizing and disinfecting. It is made daily in a gallon jug and then split into different spray bottles. The amount of bleach the center was using for a gallon of bleach seemed extremely high to me. I asked Angela to check the bleach bottle to make sure they are using the correct amount. You must follow the mixing instructions on the specific bottle of bleach for sanitizing and disinfecting. Bleach water must be mixed daily. You can discuss other product options for sanitizing and disinfecting with your child care nurse consultant. The children all have water bottles and they utilize the drinking fountain in the hallway to fill them.

Playground:
The school playground is used. They have access to climbing structures, a slide, and swings. Pea gravel is used for fall surfacing. Monthly playground safety inspections are completed.

Transportation:
The center doesn't provide daily transportation services.

Administrative records:
Five children's files were reviewed and were in excellent order. Two staff files were read and one was incomplete. It did not have a current SING background check. Please review all staff files and make sure all SING and FBI background checks are completed. Dorene Dingus has bi-monthly staff meetings and maintains ongoing contact with staff.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

The center is a wonderful resource for the community. The school and parents are very supportive of the program. Dorene Dingus has excellent skills as the director. Staff were positive and attentive to the needs of the children. The program offers drop-in care for children on a daily basis during the school year in the event parents are running late, etc. The parents are not required to commit to a number of days they will use the program. The center is a Christian School and religious based. They provide afterschool care and summer care. The center is working on a grant for a shade structure. Angela identified the strengths as having excellent communication with staff and kids and bi-weekly emails to the parents. Some of the fun activities they do in the summer are water play on Wednesdays, bike or scooter day on Fridays, popcorn party in the summer if it is earned, and a monthly glowstick party. The center applies for grants.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.6(4)c: Center repeats Iowa record checks at a minimum of every two years or when aware of additional child abuse or criminal history that occurs. Two staff files were reviewed. One did not have a current SING background check.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is recommended for 8/1/25 to 8/1/27.

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Targeted Assessment Behavior Management
I discussed with Angela their oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1. Understand expectations, 2. Managing frustrations, 3. Monitor performance. She said staff are able to tag team. Staff are able to take a quick break. They are always over ratio meaning they have more staff than required. Staff are good at recognizing if other staff are getting frustrated and are able to give them a break.

6. ADDENDUMS:

- Addendum1: The playground has very minimal shade and would benefit from a shade tarp.

This Addendum is approved by supervisor on 9/17/2026 4:34:07 PM

Date: 07/02/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Tausha Bottorff

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.