Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: St Athanasius School

Provider No.: 42005

Address: 641 Stevens St, Jesup, IA, 50648

County: Buchanan

Director's Name: Brianne "Bre" Weber

On-Site Supervisor: Amy Bautista

Phone Number: 3198271314

E-Mail: bweber@saintaschool.com

HHS Visit Date: 09/19/2025

Licensing Period: 12/01/2025 to 12/01/2027

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 08/28/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

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

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

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

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HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summer Only*
Sunday			
Monday		6:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
Tuesday		6:30 AM to 5.00 PM	
Wednesday		6:30 AM to 5:00 PM	
Thursday		6:30 AM to 5.00 PM	
Friday		6:30 AM to 5:00 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			20	10	30
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 09/19/25 I made an unannounced licensing visit to St. Athanasius School in Jesup. I met with Amy Bautista, the on-site supervisor and principal of St. Athanasius School. Ms. Bautista started with the program in July 2024. She has a BS in exercise and sports science with a teaching license. She has an MS in physical education and an MA in Educational Leadership-Principalship. I also met with Brianne “Bre” Weber, the lead teacher in the classroom. Ms. Weber has a BA in elementary education with an instructional strategist endorsement. She has been with the program since August 2023. Diane Youngblut is the assistant in the preschool classroom. Ms. Youngblut has been with the preschool program since August 2013. Donna Gebel works at the before and after school program. She provides before school care and extended care for the preschool children until school is let out. Susan Welsh works in the after school program. There are also three high school student volunteers who help.

The program operates out of a classroom, the cafeteria and the gym in St. Athanasius Catholic School. The preschool program started in August 2013. It serves children who are three and four-year-old. The program operates Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am. The program added a before and after childcare program in August 2022 that serves preschool and school age children. There are currently 38 children enrolled between both programs.

The preschool operates out of one large classroom. Windows provide natural lighting. There is an area for circle time. Extended care for preschool children also occurs in this room. The before and after school children primarily meet in the gym but also use the cafeteria.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, Ipads, dramatic play, writing, math, science/discovery, sensory, and music. Centers were arranged in a

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manner that allowed easy movement between activities, but it also allowed for clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

There is a bathroom located in the room with one toilet and one sink and there is a sink in the room as well. Handwashing procedures were posted in both locations. There are bathrooms in the cafeteria. The girl's bathroom has two toilets and one sink. The boy's bathroom has one urinal, one toilet and one sink. Handwashing procedures must be posted in both locations. There are bathrooms at the entrance of the gym. The girl's bathroom has three toilets and two sinks. The boy's bathroom has two urinals, one toilet and two sinks. Handwashing procedures must be posted in both locations.

The preschool uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans but she has also purchased the Lovely Commotion Two's and Three's Lesson Plan series. Lessons are typically based on weekly themes. The program incorporates prayer and religious education into the program using the "I am Special" curriculum. There is a projector in the classroom. A lesson plan was available for review. Ms. Weber provides parents with a weekly email newsletter to tell them what activities the children did during the week.

The children can use the school gym, have a music class, and visit the library.

There was a phone in the classroom and emergency numbers with the program's address and phone number were posted. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram were posted by the main program door in the preschool room. You must post emergency evacuation diagrams near all the exits out of the gym and cafeteria. This was cited in last year's report also. A daily schedule was posted for the preschool program. You need to post a daily schedule for the childcare program. This was cited in last year's report also.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. Inspections were not documented in April or May or December of 2024 and no inspections occurred in January through May of 2025. Playground inspections must be completed every month.

The radon test was completed in September 2023 and is good for five years. The results were within EPA guidelines.

The fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. A carbon monoxide detector was on site and is located on the east wall in the preschool classroom. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 08/28/24.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the food program guidelines. Parents provide snacks for the preschool class. They provide snacks for an entire week at a time. Snacks are documented on a calendar. The preschool children eat snacks in the classroom. There is a small refrigerator located in the room and a thermometer was present. Snacks were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

For childcare, the school provides afternoon snacks. The after school childcare is not keeping a snack calendar. This is required. You must document the two components served to the children and have this information available for review during licensing visits. The after school children eat snacks in the cafeteria.

Parents can purchase breakfast. Parents can also purchase a lunch ticket through the school or parents have the option of providing a cold lunch for their children. Preschool children are required to have a lunch that meets the CACFP guidelines. If parents are packing their child's lunch the program is responsible for checking their lunch to make sure five components are served. If there are not five components the school must supplement the child's lunch to meet the CACFP guidelines. The children eat lunch in the preschool room. Lunch menus were available for review.

The school serves breakfast. The children are under the care of school staff during breakfast.

The program uses bleach to sanitize the food tables. Tables are cleaned with soap and water prior to sanitizing the tables.

There is a complete first-aid kit in the classroom.

Vinyl mats and Nap Mats, similar to sleeping bags, are used to nap for the childcare children. Parents purchase these items.

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The parent information is located on a wall inside the classroom entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance. I have emailed the program an updated contact poster for myself with the new HHS website.

The program has a fenced in playground area. It has a poured-in-place foam fall surfacing. There are two pieces of climbing equipment. There is a smaller piece for the younger children that has slides and other activities. There is a larger piece of equipment for the older children that has slides, a climbing wall, rings, monkey bars, stepping stones and other activities. There are swings, basketball hoops, benches and a picnic table for the children to rest and a large grassy area. There is a tree and a shade shelter to provide shade.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. Files must contain emergency contact information for the doctor and dentist of each child. The doctor's and dentist's name, phone number and complete street address must be provided. One file did not have the dentist's name. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited. Two files did not provide emergency contact information for someone other than the parents. They must provide at least one non-parent contact. There were four missing physicals and three outdated health statements. The program has 30 days to get this information from parents and they were actively working on it.

I reviewed three staff files. One staff member did not have the Iowa background check (SING) nor did she have fingerprints completed. Both items should have been done prior to her starting. Correct this immediately. She also needs to sign an employee statement.

I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. Not all the necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. You must have a written medical emergency plan and a written dental emergency plan. You must have a written universal precautions policy. You must have written policies and procedures for incidents involving serious injury or significant change in health status being reported to the parents immediately. You must have written policies and procedures for minor injuries, minor changes in health or behavioral concerns being reported to the parents "the day of the incident". You must have a written plan for staff orientation regarding the center's policies and licensing standards and a written plan that outlines ongoing professional development that complies with HHS licensing.

Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

Ms. Weber is a terrific teacher. The children start their day by giving them the choice of doing a puzzle, reading a book or playing with bag toys. Ms. Weber and Ms. Youngblut greet the parents and children as they arrive. Ms. Weber was nurturing a child who was new to the class and was upset when his parent left. They then move to the rug for circle time where they sang calendar songs, talked about the weather and sang the Itsy Bitsy Spider, using the hand motions. Ms. Weber then read a book to the children. She made the story fun and included the children in the story. The children then ate snacks. While on the rug Ms. Weber talked with the children about controlling their bodies. She provided clear and easy to understand directions. The staff members modeled good manners and acknowledged when the children used good manners. Staff members provided the children with praise and used positive redirection when necessary. Ms. Weber played a child friendly video while the children ate snacks.

Ms. Weber states they never have a shortage of children. They have good enrollment. Ms. Weber states she would like to see the preschool class meet four times each week, but that was denied by the board.

The tuition is covered by Saint Athanasius Educational Trust (SEAT).

Ms. Weber sends weekly emails to parents explaining what the children did during the week.

The three-year-old children can ride the bus to school if they have an older sibling on the bus.

The program is in a secured building.

The preschool partners with the FIRE foundation to provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive

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Catholic education in their home parish schools.

The private preschool provides a Christian teaching to the children and the children participate in prayer.

The children participate in STEM activities.

The school has a website for families and the community to learn more about their program.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.4(1): Written policies on:

Enrollment and discharge.
Field trips and non-center activities.
Discipline/Behavior/Biting.
Nutrition.
Health and safety policies.
Transportation if applicable.
Assurance people do not have unauthorized access to children at the center.
Protecting children's confidentiality.
Not all the necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. You must have a written medical emergency plan and a written dental emergency plan. You must have a written universal precautions policy. You must have written policies and procedures for incidents involving serious injury or significant change in health status being reported to the parents immediately. You must have written policies and procedures for minor injuries, minor changes in health or behavioral concerns being reported to the parents "the day of the incident".

109.4(1)c: Written plan developed for staff orientation regarding center's policies and licensing regulations. Orientation is in accordance with center's staff orientation plan.
You must have a written plan for staff orientation regarding the center's policies and licensing standards and a written plan that outlines ongoing professional development that complies with HHS licensing.

109.9(1)a: All files contain:Copy of a department criminal history record check form or any other permission form approved by Department of Public Safety for conducting an Iowa or national criminal history record checkCopy of a request for child abuse information form, when applicable.Copies of results of Iowa record checks conducted through the SING for review by the department upon request.Copies of national criminal history check results.Any department issued documents sent to the center related to a record check, regardless of findings.
One staff member did not have the Iowa background check (SING) nor did she have fingerprints completed. Both items should have been done prior to her starting. Correct this immediately.

109.10(13)b: Emergency instructions, phone numbers, and diagrams for fire, tornado, and flood shall be visibly posted and documented at least once a month for fire and tornado. Records shall be maintained for current and previous year.
Emergency fire and tornado procedures and an evacuation diagram were posted by the main program door in the preschool room. You must post emergency evacuation diagrams near all the exits out of the gym and cafeteria. This was cited in last year's report also.

109.11(4)b: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. Inspections were not documented in April or May or December of 2024 and no inspections occurred in January through May of 2025. Playground inspections must be completed every month.

109.13(1 and 2): Center shall serve each child a full, nutritionally balanced meal as defined by CACFP guidelines.Staff shall provide supervision at table during snacks and meals.Children at center two hours or longer shall be offered food of not less than two hours and no more than three hours apart unless child is asleep.Menus shall be made available to parents and kept on file with substitutions noted.Avoid foods with high incident rate of causing choking.

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The after school childcare is not keeping a snack calendar. This is required. You must document the two components served to the children and have this information available for review during licensing visits.

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

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

An administrative change is being made to name Brianne "Bre" Weber as the new director. Ms. Bautista will remain the on-site supervisor. An administrative change is also being made to increase the capacity of the license to 30 children.

I met with Ms. Bautista following my classroom observations and reviewing paperwork. Ms. Bautista and Kiara Steinbron, the office personnel, helped me while reviewing paperwork to locate items. Ms. Steinbron is new and was open to learning the licensing process and what I need during my visits.

I discussed the record check process with Ms. Bautista. The Iowa background checks must be completed through SING prior to an employee starting. The fingerprints must be completed through DCI and mailed prior to the employee starting. The staff member can start prior to the fingerprint results being returned. I emailed Ms. Weber and Ms. Bautista the record check process. I also emailed them sample copies of some of the missing written policies.

Date: 09/23/2025

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

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**.