Iowa Department of Human Services
CHILD CARE CENTER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE

Name of Center: St Athanasius School **Enrollment:** 35 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 42005

Street: 641 Stevens St **City:** Jesup Iowa **Zip** 50648 **County:** Buchanan

Mailing Address: PO Box 288, Jesup, IA, 50648

Director's Name: Amy Bautista **Phone Number:** 319-827-1314

On-Site Supervisor(s): Amy Bautista **E-Mail:** abautista@saintaschool.com

Date(s) of Visit: 11-18-2024

Licensing Visit X **Unannounced Visit** X **Off Year Visit** **Administrative Change**

LICENSING VISITS

New Application **Re-Application** X **NA**

Signed Application (470-0722) Received **Yes** **No** X **NA** **Date Signed:**

FIRE INSPECTION X **State** **Local** **NA** **Is Fire Inspection Approved?** X **Yes** **No** **NA**

Date Inspected: 04-25-2023

Comments :

LICENSE TYPE: X **Child Care** **Preschool (ages 3-5 meets three hours or less per day)**

Financial Type: Profit X Non-Profit NA

Accredition: Accredited NAEYC NSACA Other X NA

Program Serves: Infants (0-23 mo.) 2 Years X Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

HOURS:	*Year-round*	*School-Year*	*Summary Only*

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General			10	6	16
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 12-01-2023 to 12-01-2025
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost **Date:** 11-26-2024

I. IF CURRENT LICENSE IS PROVISIONAL, IDENTIFY THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

N/A

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

On 11/18/24 I made an unannounced off year licensing visit to St. Athanasius School in Jesup. I met with Amy Bautista, the director 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 a MS in physical education and a MA in in Educational Leadership-Principalship. I also met with Brianne 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 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. Dawn Hansen works the after school program. There are also two high school student volunteers who help.

The program operates out of a classroom 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 35 children enrolled between both programs.

The preschool operates out of one large room. 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 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 were 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 additional bathrooms in the school for the children.

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 smart projector in the classroom. A lesson plan was available for review. Ms. Weber provides a monthly newsletter to parents to tell them the planned activities and lessons for each 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. A daily schedule was

posted for the preschool program. You need to post a daily schedule for the childcare program.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills.

I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. Inspections were not documented in April or May 2024. They must be completed every month.

A radon test was completed in September 2023 and is good for two 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 04/25/23.

The program does not participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but does follow the food program guidelines. Parents provide the snack for preschool. They provide the snack for an entire week at a time. Snacks are documented on a calendar. The preschool children eat snack 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 the afternoon snack. 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. The after school children eat snack in the cafeteria. Lunch menus were available for review.

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

The program uses Clorox All Purpose Disinfecting All Purpose Cleaner to sanitize the food tables. Tables are cleaned with soap and water prior to sanitizing the tables. The dwell time for this product is thirty seconds.

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.

I did review some staff and children files on the day of the visit. They were in good condition. The program did a great job of correcting files since last year's visit.

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.

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, steppingstones 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.

I observed the before school program and the preschool program. Ms. Gebel was sitting at the table playing a game with the children. The children were then engaged in free play and Ms. Gebel read a child some books. She allowed the child to choose the books and used the story to work on counting. Ms. Weber and Ms. Youngblut were amazing with the children. They modeled good manners. Ms. Weber is upbeat and enthusiastic. They have great teamwork. They moved around the room to help children with a worksheet. They were flexible with their schedule to meet the needs of the children. They provided praise and high fives. The children appeared to enjoy their time at the program.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Ms. Bautista states they have high enrollment. They had a waiting list.

Ms. Bautista states the program is very family oriented.

Ms. Bautista states she has a good group of staff members.

The program is in a secured building.

Ms. Bautista is detailed oriented and has come in and made the necessary changes and made sure things for licensing were getting done.

Ms. Weber is a terrific teacher who appears to connect with the children in a personal way. She has fun learning activities for the children and realizes when they need to get their wiggles out. Ms. Youngblut has worked in the program for many years and is a great assistant.

The students are Pre-K ready when they leave the preschool.

The preschool partners with the FIRE foundation to provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive Catholic education in their home parish schools.

The private preschool provides a Christian background to the children.

The children participate in STEM activities.

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

IV. IDENTIFY THE ASPECTS OF OPERATION THAT FALL BELOW THE STANDARDS REVIEWED:

N/A

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

*Note: If you are the Child Care Center Director and you feel something is unclear or unjustly cited, please contact your DHS Licensing Consultant to discuss the issue. The child care director may also send a response which will be placed in the licensing file.

*Note: If you are a member of the general public, there may be additional information contained in the public file. You may contact the DHS Licensing Consultant to inquire.