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

Name of Center: St Augustin Before and After Care **Enrollment:** 70 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 27463

Street: 4320 Grand Avenue **City:** Des Moines Iowa **Zip** 50312 **County:** Polk

Mailing Address: 4320 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA, 50312

Director's Name: Rachelle Watters **Phone Number:** 515-279-5947

On-Site Supervisor(s): Pam Carver **E-Mail:** rwatters@staugustinschool.org kkautzky@staugustinschool.org

Date(s) of Visit: 02-11-2025

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

LICENSING VISITS

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

Signed Application (470-0722) Received X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 01-04-2024

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

Date Inspected: 09-18-2024

Comments : Des Moines Fire Marshal. State requirements are that fire marshal inspections are conducted at least every three years. The city of Des Moines Fire Marshal typically do these inspections annually.

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 Preschool-Age X School-Age

Get-Well Evening Care Special Needs

SCHEDULE: Year-round X School-Year Summer Only

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

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Age	Capacity
General	0	0	28	60	88
Summer					0

QRS Rating: N/A

RECOMMENDATION FOR LICENSE:	
X	**FULL** license from 03-01-2024 to 03-01-2026
	PROVISIONAL license from
	DENIAL of initial application
	SUSPENSION of license
	REVOCATION of license

Licensing Consultant: Nate Knepper **Date:** 02-12-2025

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

N/A.

II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:

An off-year visit was conducted on 2/11/25. The new director was present for the entire visit.

All areas of the program were observed. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation, field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review.

Saint Augustin Before and After School Program was given permission to open under HHS (formerly known as DHS) licensing on 10/1/15. Prior to this date, the center was overseen by the Department of Education. The center is located in the Saint Augustin School (cafeteria, gym and two classrooms) in Des Moines and is for children who attend this school. The center serves children ages four through 12 years of age. The center is open 7:00am - 8:15am and then again 3:10pm - 5:30pm. The center is not open during the summer months or no school days. The center uses a combination of the Creative Learning Curriculum in their teachings as well as some of their own learning curriculum developed over the years.

The center is overseen by a Board. Rachelle Watters is the current director and she reports to the school principal. Rachelle has an AA degree and past experience working in a school setting. Pam Carver is the on-site supervisor as of 5/2023. Pam has a BA degree in Elementary Education and has past experience working with children.

The center uses primarily the cafeteria, but they also have access to the gym, two classrooms, and outdoor playground area. The capacity of the cafeteria is 46 children. The capacity of the bigger classroom is 28 children. The capacity of the smaller classroom is 14 children.

During the visit, all children were inside and in the cafeteria and hallway lined up to use the restrooms and wash their hands. A staff member was in the hallway and near the restroom supervising children. In the cafeteria, children were engaged in free-choice play at the different learning stations made available to them. Staff were observed walking around interacting with the different groups of children.

III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:

Enrollment has again increased over the past year.

The director stated her staff work well together. The director also believed they have good working relationships with the families they serve. Communication is stressed.

Staff stated they enjoy working with children, they enjoy talking to parents, and they appreciate Catholic Schools.

The center has a website through the school. The center is also using Brightwheel.

There is a secure entrance into the building. Security cameras are in place.

Formal staff meetings occur several times a year. The director is also eligible to attend roughly quarterly with other directors of before/after school programs within the Diocese.

Specific time is scheduled in for children to get their homework completed.

The center has a good working relationship with the school. The director and on-site supervisor stated they have a great working relationship.

The new director is organized.

New playground structures have been installed and surfacing.

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

109.10(3)c: For ongoing, long term medications, authorization shall be obtained for a period not to exceed the duration of prescription.
There was one child epipen medication that was expired. A food allergy action plan was also missing for this child.

109.11(3)a: Center shall ensure that: Facility and premises are sanitary, safe, and hazard free. Adequate indoor and outdoor space is provided. The outdoor area shall include safe play equipment and area of shade.
In several areas of the playground, the black under-tarp was exposed in several areas creating a possible tripping hazard. THE PLAYGROUND IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR, BUT FOR DIFFERENT ISSUES COMPARED TO LAST YEAR.

V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The carbon monoxide detector, per building maintenance, is built in with the fire/smoke detectors.

The annual boiler inspection expired in 6/2025.

Radon testing was last conducted 2/10/23 - 2/13/23. All classroom areas came back with radon levels below the 4.0 cutoff. Because levels were below 4.0, the center can move to testing for radon at least every five years now. So long as radon levels remain below 4.0, they can remain on a five year plan. If at the next testing, levels in any classroom come back 4.0 or higher, the center will have to have a mitigation plan, retest, and at least temporarily move back to testing every two years.

It was previously noted that the center does not go on field trips and they do not transport children.

I - Power was discussed at the visit. Staff will need to be uploading training certificates/hours notifications into their profiles. Regular staff need at least six professional development hours every year. The director and the on-site supervisor need at least eight professional development hours annually.

A record check (SING and fingerprinting) information packet was emailed to the center after the visit concluded.

Because the center is now using I - Power, they will need to ensure children's annual update paperwork is current and coincides with Brightwheel paperwork.

It is recommended that outdoor playground mats be purchased and be placed under slides to help preserve wood chips (and rubber mulch that the program is moving to next year).

*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.