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

**Name of Center:** Beyond the Bell-Grant Ragan Elementary **Enrollment:** 82 **License ID No. (Reapplications)** 47633

**Street:** 645 NE Dartmoor DR **City:** Waukee Iowa **Zip** 50263 **County:** Dallas

**Mailing Address:** 400 Locust ST, Waukee, IA, 50263

**Director's Name:** Andrea Wilmes and Rich Miller **Phone Number:** 515-987-5160

**On-Site Supervisor(s):** Michelle Macias **E-Mail:** awilmes@waukeeschools.org

**Date(s) of Visit:** 12-13-2022

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

**LICENSING VISITS**

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

**Signed Application (470-0722) Received** X **Yes** **No** **NA** **Date Signed:** 10-31-2022

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

**Date Inspected:** 08-12-2022

**Comments :** Waukee Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal inspections are due at least every three years for licensing.

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

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

| LICENSE CAPACITY | Infants | 2 Years | Preschool | School-Age | Capacity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 0 | 0 | 0 | 245 | 245 |
| Summer | | | | | 0 |

**QRS Rating:** N/A

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

**Licensing Consultant:** Nate Knepper **Date:** 12-14-2022

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

N/A.

**II. IDENTIFY THE AREAS OBSERVED ON THE VISIT:**

A licensing visit was conducted on 12/13/22. The on-site supervisor was present throughout the visit.

All areas of the program were observed with the exception of the playground which could not be observed up close due to weather. These areas observed consisted of classroom observations and activities, ratios, nutritional practices, health and safety practices, playground observation (discussed and monthly playground inspections reviewed), field trip and transportation practices, and administrative review. The most recent COVID updates were also reviewed.

Beyond the Bell - Grant Ragan is a school-age program located within the Grant Ragan Elementary School in Waukee. This program that was given permission to open on 8/23/16. During the school year, children can attend 6:30am-8:40am and/or 3:40pm-6:00pm. During the summer months and No School days, the program is open 6:30am-6:30pm. This is one of six Beyond the Bell programs and they all use a similar learning curriculum based off of other learning curriculums.

All six programs are overseen by a Board. The directors of this program and the other Beyond the Bell programs are Andrea Wilmes and Rich Miller. Andrea is also the director of the three Wee Care programs in Waukee. Both individuals meet the requirements for director. The on-site supervisor at this program is Michelle Macias. Michelle has many years of experience working in child care and has taken several professional development courses over the years to meet the requirements for on-site supervisor.

The center uses primarily the cafeteria and the gym which are connected to each other. The center also uses the outdoor playground area.

During the visit, children were divided up between the gym, cafeteria, and main hallway. In the gym, children were engaged in large motor activities. In the cafeteria, children were doing art-work projects related to the holidays. In the hallway, children were divided up into smaller groups visiting with each other.

**III. IDENTIFY THE OBSERVED STRENGTHS OF THE CENTER:**

The center has a good system in place for getting and tracking children coming to the program after school is dismissed.

Staff use walkie-talkies to communicate with each other.

All of the Beyond the Bell programs have information about their programs listed through the Waukee School District Website.

Monthly staff meetings are held. In addition, the directors of the Beyond the Bell programs meet at least quarterly with other directors of similar before/after school programs in the western suburbs. Finally, on-site supervisors of the BTB programs have monthly meetings.

There is a  good working relationship with other school personnel.

Good staff-child activities were observed.

The on-site supervisor believes staff work well together.

Enrollment has increased over the past year.

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

109.10(16)a: The center and supervisor shall ensure that staff knows names and number of children assigned.  Staff shall provide careful supervision.
The staff will need to shore up supervision some for children that move between the different areas used by the center as well as the restrooms.

109.11(3)d: Record of monthly inspections of outdoor recreation area and equipment shall be kept.
November 2022 inspections were not recorded.

**V. SPECIAL NOTES/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The program is exempt from environmental testing as they only serve school-age children and are located in a school.

For field trips, the center contracts with the school district and take a school bus.

The playground could not be observed up close at this year's visit due to weather.  The on-site supervisor stated last year's issues observed have not been corrected by the school.  The on-site supervisor also stated the playground is due for new surfacing in the near future.  Last year, the center was found to be in violation of:
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.
The bolts along the fence line and on the ground holding the fence in place still have not been cut/capped so that no more than two threads are showing. THIS IS A REPEAT ISSUE FROM LAST YEAR.

I-Power was discussed at the visit.

A new, full, two-year license is recommended.

*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.