



Licensed Child Caring Agency Unannounced Site Visit Report

Licensee: St. Mary's Academy

Executive Director: Frank Phillips

Program Director(s): Jim Meyer

Date of Unannounced: 9-22-21

Licensing Coordinator: Irvin Minten

Other Regulatory or Accrediting Agencies: NW Accreditation, NW Association of Independent Schools, and NW Accreditation Commission

Purpose: Per OAR 413-215-0101 (1) (b) Children's Care Licensing is required to perform at least one unannounced site visit a year where children in care reside.

Previous Findings	Repeat Findings Further Action Needed	Comments
The most recent site review at the program was a 2-year licensing review and this took place in February 2021. 413-215-0061(6)(a) Contractors. Agency ensures the contractor meets the requirements of this rule and Chapter 413 division 215. The program had three	Yes ☐ No ☒	The program has ensured that all contracted food service employees who prepare and serve food to the boarding students receive all required new employee orientation and ongoing trainings. These trainings are being tracked in the program's Vector electronic system.

contracted food service employees through Avian Food Service. These employees had not completed the required new employee orientation and ongoing trainings. The program will need to ensure that all contracted food service employees who prepare and serve food to the boarding students receive all required new employee orientation and ongoing trainings.		
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New Findings from Site Visit	Comments
There were no new findings from this unannounced site review.	

Interview Summary
During the unannounced site review, a great deal of conversation took place with Jim Meyer, Principal and Brett Bruins, Supervisor of the International Boarding Program. I was also able to interview 2 youth. At the time of the unannounced, there were not any dorm staff available to interview. In addition, on 9-28-21, I was able to have a telephone conversation with Kaelynn Welburn, HR Director, and confirmed that Avian Food Service Employees were completing required new employee orientation and on-going trainings and that these trainings were being tracked in their Vector (formerly Safe Schools) system.

During conversation with Mr. Meyer and Mr. Bruins, we discussed how the school was successfully managing the COVID-19 pandemic. We also discussed the changing demographics of the youth at the program as well as staff and contractor training and the program's medication administration and suicide prevention protocols.

During individual interviews with the 2 youth, they both reported they were new to the school. One of the youth was a Junior and the other was in 8th grade. Both students reported they expected to graduate from the school. Both youth stated they enjoyed being at the school, that the staff were nice and welcoming, and both felt that the staff received adequate training. One of the youth reported they enjoyed the sports being offered at the school. Both youth stated they also felt safe at night, that they could go to staff if they had any concerns and staff would assist them, and that they could call or Facetime their parents whenever they wanted. One of the youth stated they would not change anything about the program. The other youth stated they wished the program offered more Korean food and that since they were the only 8th grade student in the program, that they wished there were other 8th grade students enrolled in the program.

Observations

The international boarding school's dorm and cafeteria were well maintained, and both were well furnished and welcoming. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, all classes were in person, which is a change from the previous academic year when most of the boarding students attended virtual classes, while sitting in the cafeteria. Currently, there are a total of 510 students enrolled in the school (3rd-12th grade) with about 340 students enrolled in the high school. Of the high school students, 49 of them are in the international boarding school program (1 of the students' lives with a family and the rest live in the dorm) which, due to the COVID Pandemic, is a little lower than the capacity. In recent years, the program had 54 boarding students who lived at the dorm and about 20 who lived off campus with host families (it has been difficult to recruit host families due to the pandemic). In addition, due to the current contentious political climate between the US and China, the extremely high cost of airline tickets between the US and China (about \$8,000 for a 1-way ticket), and the increased difficulty which Chinese students have in obtaining and maintaining a visa, the percentage of Chinese students enrolled in the program has dropped substantially, with only 7 youth in the program coming from China. Currently, about 70% of the youth enrolled in the program come from Korea. This has impacted the program financially, since there is a very high demand in China to send youth to academic boarding schools in the US.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please feel free to contact Irvin Minten at Irvin.minten@dhsosha.state.or.us or by phone at 503/428-1355.

Licensing Coordinator's Signature:  Date: 10/11/2021

Manager Review:  Date: 10-7-2021