



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: 2-28-22

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 an unannounced site review on 9-22-21. There were not any corrective actions noted following the 9-22-21 unannounced review. The most recent site review prior to the 9-22-21 unannounced review was a 2-year licensing review which	Yes ☐ No ☒	NA

took place in February 2021. There was 1 corrective action noted following the 2-year licensing review, and this corrective action was fully reviewed at the time of the unannounced review in September 2021, and it had been resolved.		
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New Findings from Site Visit	Comments
There were no new findings noted during this unannounced site review.	NA

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 and the 1 dorm staff who was present. The 2 youth whom I interviewed were taken out of class by Mr. Meyer, after I asked him to randomly choose 2 youth for me to interview. During conversation with Mr. Meyer and Mr. Bruins, we discussed how the school was successfully managing the COVID-19 pandemic. We also discussed how the demographics of the youth at the program continued to change, although there were about 15 more Chinese students enrolled in the program this year over the last year. We also discussed the program's medication storage and medication administration practices as well as the school's suicide prevention protocol. We also discussed that recently a female student in the program was asked to exit the program and return to China due to mental health and suicidal ideation, despite the school's best efforts to support and successfully resolve the youth's mental health issues.

During individual interviews with the 2 youth, they both stated that their home country was China and both reported they were Seniors at the school. One of the youth was in his third year at the program and the other in his second. Both youth reported they expected to graduate from the school. Both youth stated they very much enjoyed being at the school, that the staff were nice and welcoming, and both felt that the staff received adequate training in supporting them in the dorm and in keeping them safe. Both youth stated they also felt safe at night, that they had at least 1 adult they could talk too if they had concerns, and that they could call or Facetime their parents whenever they wanted. Both of the youth stated they would not change anything about the program and both stated they felt very fortunate to be enrolled at the school. One of the youth also talked about how he had been previously enrolled in another academic boarding school as a Freshman in the State of Michigan, and he stated the St. Mary's program was much better and he felt much more welcomed. Both youth also stated the food offered at the program was good and they got enough to eat.

During individual interview with the 1 dorm staff, she stated she has been working at the program for about 3 months. She stated she was a previous foster parent, that she enjoyed her job, and that she enjoyed working with the youth and working at the program. She also stated she felt like she was well trained and that if she ever had questions, there were other staff and managers with whom to consult. She was also able to correctly describe the school's suicide prevention protocol and the school's medication administration process. She reported she would not change anything about the program or how she was supported as an employee.

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 about 500 students enrolled in the school (3rd-12th grade) with about 340 students enrolled in the high school. Of the high school students, 48 of them are in the international boarding school program, which due to COVID is slightly less than the capacity of 54. The school's dorms were also well maintained, with the girls occupying the first floor of the dorm and the boys the second floor. The dorm is inviting and nicely equipped.

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: 03/08/2022

Manager Review:  Date: 3-2-2022