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## St. Francis' new building to capture spirit of 'doing things differently'

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The building that St. Francis School in Goshen hopes to build would be more than a gymnasium and performing arts center.

The latest designs would use sustainable materials and construction methods such as a green wall of native plants that would be watered by rain catches on the building that help prevent runoff.

It also would have a multi-tiered roof that would allow air to flow better to decrease the need for a traditional air-conditioning system.

The building would have locker and fitness rooms, basketball courts, a stage with amphitheater seating, a health-food concession stand and a garden play area.

The building also would have a mezzanine and meeting rooms meant to offer venues for community events.

"We want the building to express our core values of promoting creativity, being eco-friendly and serving our community," school head John Delautre said. "This building would truly encompass those ideas."

A version of the new building designs was presented at the school's annual Eagle Gala on Feb. 6. Final designs should be done sometime in the next month or so, Delautre said.

No start date for construction has been set because fundraising isn't done, he said. About \$2million has been raised so far, he said.

The building is budgeted to cost less than \$3million, but the school's leaders want to be cautious, Delautre said.

"This is the school's most pressing need, but with the climate right now, we want to be as fiscally responsible as we can. ¶" "That means not spending money we don't have yet and making sure we consider the school's other needs too."

The new building would replace the school's current gymnasium, built in the 1970s.

"Five years ago, the school just decided that we shouldn't put any more money into the old building," Delautre said.

California architectural firm, (fer) studio — which stands for form, environment, research — took on

the St. Francis project. The goal is to get it to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards for "green" buildings, Delautre said.

To teach students about the science behind such a building, there are plans to include computer and presentation stations featuring different aspects of the building's construction and operation, Delautre said.

"We want (students) to be able to use the building and learn from the building," he said.

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