

Capital Campaign Questions of the Week

Asked of Dr Mike Rockers
Principal, St. Francis Catholic School

How would the addition of the Multi-Purpose (Gym and Auditorium) Facility change the Physical Education program at St. Francis School?

At present, our gym classes are either held on the blacktop in the school parking lot, the small playground, or in the family center on days with inclement weather. Each location presents problems for our students. First, the blacktop parking lot is not safe. It is difficult to control the traffic entering the area from both directions, and students can fall and injure themselves on the rough surface. Secondly, the little playground cannot be used effectively when other grades are scheduled to have recess at the same time as a P.E. class. Lastly, the family center is often reserved for other groups or meetings and limits the types of activities the gym teacher can conduct (i.e. no kicking balls that could hit the chandelier!). Basketball and Volleyball practices must be off campus or on the blacktop. A gymnasium would provide our students not only with a safe environment for physical education, but a home base for athletics, assemblies and other large events.

The school is seeking accreditation by the SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). How important will the new facilities be for that accreditation?

The accreditation process evaluates all aspects of the school, including the facilities. Certainly, a school with a gymnasium can offer a more complete physical education and athletic program, as well as provide more opportunities for extra-curricular activities. The addition of the new facilities will most definitely help us move effectively through the accreditation process and meet or exceed standards related to facilities and physical education curriculum.

Enrollment is strong with nearly 225 students in our school. How will the new facilities affect your enrollment?

We are blessed to have 223 students this year and welcomed 35 new families to our school community! Steady enrollment is vitally important to our school. The new facilities will make it much easier to attract and retain new families, particularly those with Middle School students.