

'We are attempting to create a culture'

Christian Education Leadership Academy to hold beam-raising ceremony Tuesday

By Matt Masterson
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CITY OF PEWAUKEE — Brian Nahey said the idea for starting his own school struck him three times during his life: when he was entering college, when his children began school and then again when his grandchildren began school.

On Tuesday, his vision for his "one-of-a-kind" school — the Christian Education Leadership Academy on Ryan Street in the City of Pewaukee — will take one more step forward with a beam-raising ceremony to be attended by Mayor Scott Klein and Wisconsin U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson.

Nahey, president of Venturedyne Ltd., and his wife, Nancy, developed the school to create Christian leaders — not necessarily pastors or educators, as commonly thought of — but people who can guide others in an area where leadership is needed.

"We are attempting to create a culture, we are attempting to create a community," Nahey said. "That will include the students, it includes the parents, it includes the faculty and, eventually, we want to include more and more of the general community."

The 170,000-square-foot academy will offer an educational experience Nahey says is unlike any other, featuring state-of-the-art technology and experimental teaching lessons to find the



Submitted art

A rendering of the Christian Education Leadership Academy, which is under construction on Ryan Street in the City of Pewaukee.

best way to allow students to grow.

Tests will be computer-graded — identifying exactly what students missed — allowing teachers to have a more individualized review with students. They will also be able to retake tests as many times as needed in until they feel comfortable with the material.

Once students display mastery over a certain topic, they will then be used as tutors to help their classmates get to their level.

Teachers will also be able to record their lessons, which students can then play back as an additional study tool from school or at home. This also allows teachers to go back and modify their lessons if a large number of students struggle with the same points in a lesson.

Assuring students they can improve

"One of the biggest things we can do with these children is teach them that they can constantly get better," Nahey said, "and they can

be motivated to do that because they get that positive reinforcement from themselves and the teachers."

The academy will also feature a 25,000-square-foot indoor athletic facility, offering basketball courts — designed by the same company which constructed the athletics floors for the Milwaukee Bucks — batting cages and driving ranges, and artificial turf fields for soccer, lacrosse and baseball.

An 850-seat chapel will also serve as a fine arts center.

"CELA helps Wisconsin focus on our youth and their development as future leaders," Johnson said in a release. "The work Brian, Nancy and their team is doing is inspiring."

Construction on the school began in April and classes are expected to begin for the 2015-16 school year. Nahey said he is shooting for an approximate class size of 15, with two classes in each grade from 4K

through eighth grade. A third class in each grade could then be added depending on demand.

Nahey declined to say what the price tag was on the building nor what tuition will cost, saying he is only driven by "what we are trying to do," and calling the building itself a gift.

"I was taught you don't ask what the cost of a gift is and you don't tell what the cost of a gift is," he said. "We look at tuition and we want it to be able to cover the operating cost. We want to be able to offer this education to the people who really want it — to children who maybe can't afford it."

He added that fundraising may eventually be used to allow people to donate into scholarship funds.

"We feel that children — and everybody — will be motivated when they realize the work they put in gives them success," said Nahey.

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