

SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SON

Results of study awaited

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Local Catholic leaders should know by Thanksgiving whether they can move forward with a proposal to build a new elementary school.

Kelly Kavanaugh, marketing officer for local Catholic schools, said the results of a feasibility study are expected by that date. The study will show whether donors can contribute the \$4 million to \$6 million needed for the new school, which would be built on the campus of Catholic Central High School.

The elementary school for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade is part of the proposal to consolidate Catholic Central High School and four elementary schools — St. Bernard, St. Teresa and Holy Trinity in Springfield and St. Mary in Urbana.

Representatives of local parishes formed the Clark-Champaign Catholic Education Committee to put together the proposal. The committee is working out the details of how the consolidated schools should be governed.

By Dec. 6, it will submit a proposal to the Dayton Area Commission on Education to create a “limited jurisdiction” form of governance that would provide more local control over the consolidated school. If the archdiocesan commission approves, Cincinnati

Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk then would need to endorse the plan.

Pilarczyk rejected an earlier proposal for the school to be independently governed. He did, however, approve moving seventh- and eighth-graders into the high school this fall as part of the consolidation plan.

Catholic Central Principal Jeanne Kunay said the junior high students have made a smooth transition.

Also recently, a national board of Catholic leaders named Catholic Central High School to a list of the nation's 50 best secondary schools.

Catholic Central is one of four Ohio schools named to the Catholic High School Honor Roll. The Honor Roll is produced by the Action Institute, a non-profit educational organization in Grand Rapids, Mich. Selection to the Honor Roll was based on responses to surveys sent to 1,300 Catholic secondary schools across the country.

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