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New Garden City High School To Resemble A College

School officials have unveiled detailed plans for Garden City's new high school and the buzz word on everyone's lips is 'excited.'

"I'm very excited about this," said parent Gloria Hopkins.

"I'm just excited and looking forward to it going through," said teacher Patsy Fort.

School officials say 85 to 90 percent of teachers are on board with the concept of having smaller learning communities within the new high school. Those four communities will be the ninth grade center, education and finance, information technology and agri-science and manufacturing. Within those groups will be academies or an area of study from which a student can choose.

"Smaller learning communities I firmly believe are here to stay," said Dr. Rick Atha, USD 457 superintendent.

The school will be like a college for high school students.

"Student will be placed where their interests really lie, so they really should engage them more," Fort said.

Joanna Rodriguez was one of the students asked to collaborate with the architects on ideas. And even though she will graduate by the time the school is built, she feels the new design will better prepare students.

"I think it's pretty cool," she said. "I think it's going to prepare them for the life they want to pursue. If they want to be a dentist or want to be a doctor, you know they will be able to get into the high classes they need."

The school will have 123 classrooms fit to hold about 2,100 students. It will also have a 750-seat auditorium and lot of natural light.

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