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## Memphis charter school looks to expand



[Michael Sheffield](#)

Staff writer- Memphis Business Journal

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#)

Memphis Business Academy, a local charter school, is expanding to accommodate its growth to nearly 900 students.

The school, which currently has students in grades 6-12, hopes to break ground later this summer on a 22,000-square-foot building that will hold a new gymnasium and eight new classrooms. The building should be completed by next spring and be ready for the 2014-15 school year, according to [Anthony Anderson](#), the school's executive director. Memphis Business Academy currently occupies more than 87,200 square feet at its Overton Crossing campus. The school had 850 students this past school year.

Anderson said Memphis Business Academy is working to grow its athletic programs, but has had to borrow gym space from neighboring schools. The school is working to raise \$2.7 million for the project.

"We tend to build within our means," Anderson said. "We're still in the process of raising money right now, but we're building the gym that we can fund through operational dollars."

Self + Tucker Architects is designing the building. **Montgomery Martin Contractors LLC** and Bricks Inc. are the project's contractors.

Once the project begins, it is expected to take seven months to complete, according to Anderson.

[Jimmie Tucker](#), a principal with Self + Tucker, said the design will be cost effective to meet the school's needs, and will have an outdoor courtyard and elevated walking track.

"We're trying to add a building that creates more of a campus environment," Tucker said. "It'll be an important new space for interaction."

Michael Sheffield covers bioscience and biotechnology; manufacturing; tourism and hospitality; and sports business. Contact him at [msheffield@bizjournals.com](mailto:msheffield@bizjournals.com).