

## Bryan College leases one-time elementary building



EDMÉE RODRIGUEZ / NEWS-LEADER

The former McDaniel School building at 237 S. Florence Ave. will become the new campus of Bryan College. The college leased the building from Recess Properties, which bought it from Springfield Public Schools in 2002.

# McDaniel School fits role

By Karen E. Culp  
NEWS-LEADER

McDaniel School has been a place for learning since 1908.

And Bryan College is making sure the center-city building will continue to be used for education.

Bryan College will begin moving into the former elementary school later this year and will relocate its programs there by mid-January. Bryan College is currently housed in the Wedgewood Shopping Center on South Campbell Avenue.

The quality of the building, plus the overall development in downtown and Jordan Valley Park drew Bryan College to the McDaniel School.

"We feel within five years, this is just going to be a great place to be," said Brian Stewart, president of Bryan College.

Bryan College has programs in travel, computer networking and program-

assistant. The college offers diploma programs in those areas, and now also offers associate degrees.

Bryan College will lease the former elementary school from Recess Properties, a company owned by Matthew Miller, Matt Miller and Jeff Schrag.

The group bought the three-story, 21,000-square-foot building from Springfield Public Schools in late 2002 for \$212,000.

In August, Recess Properties began renovating the building for a new use.

"We knew we had a very unique space," said Matthew Miller of Recess Properties. "We feel very fortunate to have Bryan College going in there. It's a strong business and they're using it for its intended purpose."

Bryan College opened in

people to take jobs in travel agencies, with airlines or resorts. Since then, it has expanded its offerings, and will continue to do so, Stewart said. The college has about 150 students and about 25 faculty and staff members.

Moving into McDaniel School nearly doubles the college's space. It now leases about 10,500 square feet in the Wedgewood center.

The college is adding an elevator to the building, and is renovating its inside to suit its purposes. Most of the classrooms will continue to be classrooms, though some of those spaces will be divided into offices for staff. Stewart himself is getting what could be considered the building's penthouse suite.

"When the plans were all said and done, we discovered there was no place for an office for me," Stewart said.

The building's upper-most floor, a kind of attic,

the top floor can be accessed only by climbing a ladder, but a spiral staircase will soon be installed.

Most of Bryan College's students are people who are seeking a new career, looking to make a change in their lives. The average age of most of the college's students is 28 to 30, Stewart said.

"When people call us, they are ready to do something new with their lives," Stewart said.

The college has long offered diploma programs, but just this year began offering associate degrees. Bryan College has another campus in Topeka, Kan.

"Several of our past graduates have come back and want to go from the diploma to an associates," Stewart said.

McDaniel School was closed as an elementary by 1968 and was a vocational adult education center until 1992, when it was converted to office



Stewart