



Arlington Catholic High School Addition & Renovation Project Completed

Design Work by BKA Architects and Avid Engineers

BROCKTON, MA, October 7, 2009 – The 2,600 S.F. addition to and renovation of selected interior spaces to the Arlington Catholic High School located in Arlington Massachusetts have been completed. BKA Architects of Brockton, Massachusetts provided the architectural and interior design services, and Avid Engineers of Billerica, Massachusetts supplied the HVAC, Electrical, Fire Protection, Fire Alarm, and Plumbing design services. Santini, Inc. of Arlington, Massachusetts was the general contractor for the project.

There were several issues that Arlington Catholic High School was confronted with related to the organization and available space in their existing building. One issue concerned the location of the various support office spaces. These were scattered on various floors throughout the building. The admissions office was located on the ground floor in the center of the school requiring visitors to the office to walk through the school. The administrative offices were located on a different level from the admissions office. The school also wanted to provide a fitness center for which there was no space in the current building. In addition, it was considered desirable to create a separate, accessible entrance for the public during events in the gymnasium to increase security within the school.

To resolve these issues, two steps were taken. The first was to transform an existing unused 2,600 S.F courtyard and notch area by designing a two-story infill building that would enhance the exterior image of the building as well as provide a secondary entrance to the school. The second was to relocate the admissions offices closer to the administrative offices and the main school entrance. This office suite, which also contained a conference room, was constructed by converting two classroom spaces and relocating these to the new addition. A visitor's locker room



was established in the former Athletic Director's office of the main school building with the plan to move this office to the addition. The addition in the courtyard area provided space for two additional classrooms, a 1,400 S.F fitness center, Athletic Director's office, accessible toilet rooms, and storage space for athletic equipment and event furniture.

As accessibility was another concern, improvements were made here as well. A series of ramps were designed to smooth the transition from the addition's entrance to the ground floor level of the school. In addition, two lifts were installed. The first lift enabled persons with disabilities to access the first floor, and the second, the gymnasium located off of on the first level. The secondary entrance provides access for the general public for games and other events that are held in the gymnasium. This allows the other portions of the high school to be closed off during these events thereby improving the security within the high school.

It was important for Arlington Catholic High School to have the majority of the addition and the interior renovations finished by the start of the school year. The design team worked closely with the Santini, Inc. of Arlington, Massachusetts, the general contractor for the project, to ensure that the interior renovations and installation of the lifts were completed on schedule. The fitness center and addition entrance were considered to be less of a priority and were completed within the first few weeks of the school year.

About Arlington Catholic High School

Arlington Catholic is a college preparatory Catholic high school that educates and challenges young men and women academically, spiritually, and socially in a caring, supportive environment. Arlington Catholic prepares young adults to be life-long learners and contributors, committed to a just society. For more information, visit www.achs.net.