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JRM Construction completes 12,000 s/f school expansion

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Manhattan, NY JRM Construction Management has completed the expansion of the Cathedral School of St. John The Divine in New York City's Morningside Heights neighborhood. The JRM team, led by project director Charles Ciccarelli, delivered a multi-level expansion of 12,000 s/f on the south end of the existing school building. The addition includes a basement for mechanical equipment and storage space, a terrace with a new 2,700 s/f library and media center and a new ground floor featuring a new admissions suite, along with dining, meeting and assembly space.

The JRM team worked collaboratively with Ennead Architects and Polise Consulting Engineers to bring the expansion of the 118-year-old school to fruition. The Cathedral School founded in 1901 to serve families in New York City. Today, The Cathedral School serves an international student population from a wide variety of countries and heritages, embodying an inclusive and universal model that uses modern education to produce inquisitive, creative and academically strong graduates.

"We are excited to share the expanded Cathedral School with our faculty, students and community," said Peter Maas, chief operating and financial officer of the Cathedral School. "To make our plans a reality, JRM was able to accommodate the school's schedule and work, delivering a safe environment within an occupied space."

To minimize interruptions to the school, JRM implemented a multi-phased approach and during construction installed temporary walls and partitions to ensure the safety of students and personnel. JRM also coordinated all sub activities, including overnight work, to mitigate and control dust and noise, as well as ensure the school's daily activities and programs went unimpeded.

The scope of work also included the installation of limestone arches, exterior stone, a blue stone exterior stair and bronze rail, terrazzo flooring, a feature wall with reveals, a reception area with custom millwork, curved arches featuring recessed, built-in shades and Decoustics ceiling tile with grid and roof guard rails with steel cables.

"St. John the Divine and the Cathedral School are iconic New York City institutions with deep community roots," said Ciccarelli. "JRM is honored to deliver this expansion that will ensure the school can continue to serve the parish and educational community for years to come."

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