

Cushing Academy–Watkins Field House

Asburnham, MA

The Watkins Field House at Cushing Academy is a new athletic center designed to replace an existing 1950s-era gymnasium that no longer met the needs of a modern independent school. The new three-story 32,100 sq. ft. facility includes one college regulation court running the length of the building and two more courts, both high school regulation, running perpendicular to that court. The new gym will improve utilization and scheduling for the many teams and individual students using the facility by allowing more court and practice time. It will also allow Cushing Academy to host future championship games within the Independent School League.

The facility also includes a fitness center, weight room, training room and locker rooms for home and visiting teams, students, faculty and officials. The glass-enclosed fitness center and group exercise spaces offer views of campus and to the gymnasium below. The use of natural daylighting in virtually all rooms creates a transparent and energetic atmosphere.

The entire facility is wired and camera-ready enabling internet streaming of games and lectures making it possible for parents and spectators to view events live. The gymnasium and program spaces are also used for distance



learning, making the new building more than solely an athletic space.

The Watkins Field House is situated next to the Curry Academic Center and downhill from the main campus building, Vose Hall, creating a traditional campus quadrangle. The traditional brick façade and windows on three sides of the

building are contrasted with a modern glass curtainwall on the north side and front entrance.

The blend of the two styles complements the existing campus buildings while introducing modern architecture and a new direction for Cushing Academy.



New Construction/Addition

Sports facility/fitness center

Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc.

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DESIGN TEAM

Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc., Architect
 Windover Construction, Construction Manager
 CSL Consulting, Owner's Project Manager

OWNER/CLIENT

Cushing Academy
 Asburnham, MA
 Christopher Torino, Headmaster
 978/827-7000

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9–12, Post Graduate
 Capacity: 400
 Size of Site: 1 acre
 Building Area: 32,100 sq. ft.
 Space per Student: 80.25 sq. ft.
 Cost per Student: \$30,500
 Square Foot Cost: \$380
 Project Cost: \$12,200,000
 Completion Date: May 2016
 Sustainability Rating Status: Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code

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