



Explorer Academy Huntington, WV

Students set foot this past fall into a new Expeditionary Learning School, which is the first of its kind in West Virginia. Cabell County School officials are excited about this new school they hope will set an example for schools around the state. It is a consolidation of Peyton Elementary and Geneva Kent Elementary in the east end of Huntington.

The schools were combined to form the incubator school, which is housed in the former Beverly Hills Middle School facility that will be renovated to fit the mold of the Expeditionary Learning model. The school is described as an incubator school to allow for other teachers and administrators throughout the state to learn more about the experiential learning method. They hope what they learn from their experiment leads to other school districts around the state doing their own experiments and developing expeditionary learning environments of their own.

Students learn about completing projects that will stretch across different subject areas and can sometimes take the entire school year. The curriculum for the program is very hands on, and is a real-world



Remodel/Adaptive Reuse/ Restoration

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DESIGN TEAM

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OWNER/CLIENT

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KEY STATS

Grades Served: PreK-5
Capacity: 507 students
Building Area: 78,776 gsf
Space per Student: 155 sq. ft.
Project Cost: \$13,000,000
Completion Date: August 2016

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way of learning. Students will be working a lot with community partners, people who are experts in their fields.

In addition to creating separate bus and parent loading and unloading areas with additional parking, renovations include an enlarged dining and kitchen space to accommodate the student population. The facility has a new HVAC system and new lighting, replacing the original outdated systems and bringing the building up to current codes.

The Media Center has been renovated to accommodate current technology needs and it overlooks an outdoor rooftop classroom space for all students. The renovated art and science classrooms anchor the second-floor space. A new music room was created close to the finished gymnasium and performance platform.

Because of the distance from the bus drop-off area and the front door the students needed a covered walkway. The school's signature colorful "tree canopy" design was evolved and leads your eye to the main entrance of the building.

