



EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bancroft Elementary School Andover, MA



This project was completed on a complex, occupied site, of which the existing school occupied the most advantageous (central) portion. Working closely with property owners on both sides of the site, SMMA was able to arrive at the building shape and form most responsive to the educational plan, microclimate, and close-knit neighborhood. As part of a high-performing, rural/suburban district north of Boston, the Bancroft school serves a variety of traditional K-5 and special needs students.

The building's unique organization allows for flexibility in facility transitions from the fourth to fifth grade, whereby teachers can model a team-teaching experience for their rising middle-school students. Common areas foster a sense of belonging for individual grades, while flexible public spaces on the first floor bring students, teachers, and the broader Andover community together in celebration of

New Construction/Addition

Entire school/campus building

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DESIGN TEAM

Alex Pitkin, AIA, Principal Architect
Lorraine Finnegan, AIA, Project Manager
Philippe Genereux, AIA, Project Architect
Andrew Oldeman, PE, Mechanical Engineer
Peter Lukacic, ASLA, Landscape Architect

OWNER/CLIENT

Andover Public Schools
Andover, MA
Sheldon Berman
978/623-8501

KEY STATS

Grades Served: K-5
Capacity: 680 students
Size of Site: 20.2 acres
Building Area: 106,904 gsf
Space per Student: 157 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$59,144
Square Foot Cost: \$376
Project Cost: \$40,218,065
Completion Date: September 2014
Sustainability Rating Status: LEED NC Silver

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the Bancroft school culture. Operable partitions located at key areas throughout the school—between the gym and cafeteria, between music rooms—allow for the formation of a Large Group Instruction room, and breakout spaces in the classroom commons add to the variety of the building’s educational environments. Protecting three separate wetlands; a large public drinking water reservoir; and the peaceful, open space on the site was a chief design goal, as was making each element part of a grander outdoor educational space.

The building was designed to meet the LEED for Schools Silver rating, exceeding the code’s strict energy-use ratings by 40%. Additional sustainable design features include a highly efficient skin, with ample, but strategic, daylighting; rooftop mechanical penthouses, which save site area and provide long-term equipment enclosure for improved efficiency; and a 40,000-gallon storm water-harvesting tank for irrigation.

The site features student gardens, biking and walking pathways, protected forests, and covered outdoor classrooms. The design team was able to salvage a number of items from the school’s beloved previous iteration, including 16-foot library doors, providing a direct connection to a cherished past and honoring Bancroft’s rich history.

