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WEST ROXBURY

Renovations nearly done to historic building on Catholic Memorial campus in West Roxbury

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 26, 2013 05:10 PM

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(Catholic Memorial School)

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Renovations to an historic school building on the Catholic Memorial School campus in West Roxbury are nearly complete.

This summer, crews have been restoring the brick exterior of Donahue Hall and installing a new state-of-the-art science lab inside, the school announced.

The building at the corner of Baker and Gardner streets opened in 1899 as a city-owned primary school, officials said. Saint Theresa of Avila Parish later bought the property, which officially became known as the Avila school in 1925.

Three decades later, the parish's pastor, the Rev. Monsignor Charles A. Donahue, suggested the building be donated to the Christian Brothers to establish a private Catholic high school.

On Sept. 9, 1957, five Christian Brothers and 224 high school students opened Catholic Memorial High School. Today, the building is home to Catholic Memorial's middle school.

Money to fund this summer's renovation project was raised in part by 76 families that contributed to a gift that from the school's Class of 2013. The names of the participating families will be listed on a special periodic table of elements that will hang in the new science lab.

Unique Woodworking in East Weymouth is donating its construction of new lab stations for the science classroom.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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