

Union City High School project nears completion



By Evelyn Lee

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One of the most unique features of the new school is its rooftop athletic facility.

The construction of the new Union City High School is nearing completion, according to the New Jersey-based architecture firm working on the project.

Cliffside Park-based **RSC Architects**, in partnership with architecture firm **HOK New York**, designed the new 360,000-square-foot Union City High School, located between 24th and 26th streets on Kennedy Boulevard in the Hudson County city. The educational facility includes 66 classrooms, art and dance studios, photography and broadcast studios, technology labs, a media center, a gymnasium with bleacher seating for 1,800 people, a cafeteria, an outdoor courtyard, and a 900-seat performing arts auditorium, according to RSC.

Union City High School officially opened this week for the new school year, and is about 99 percent complete, according to the firm.

A unique feature of the school is its rooftop athletic facility, which encompasses more than three acres of artificial turf for a regulation-sized high school baseball field, a soccer/football field and a grandstand area for 2,100 spectators, the firm said. The architecture of the athletic complex was designed to resemble the former Roosevelt Stadium, which previously occupied the site.

Several features of the new high schools were designed for use by both students and the local community, according to RSC. The North Hudson Community Action Corp., for example, operates the school's health screening center and provides services to both students and their families. A new parking garage built nearby will provide parking for the school, as well as nearby residents and business, the firm said. Also, the fields of the athletic facility are available for use by the city's recreational programs during non-school hours, RSC said.

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