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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

On new shared campus, everything's up to date at St. Joseph

■ Addition at Trinity High School gives junior high a state-of-the-art start to a new century.

By Dave Pierce
Union Leader Staff

In 1924, builders set the cornerstone for what would become St. Joseph Junior High School, and 100 years later, a move across Manchester is setting in motion the next century of Catholic education.

A 45,000-square-foot, four-story addition to Trinity High School merges two historic

institutions into one Bridge Street campus. But more than that, city and church leaders said, the modern amenities will help students compete in a fast-moving world where technology and faith are essential to the community.

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► See **St. Joseph**, Page A8



DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER STAFF

A crowd gathers at the ribbon-cutting and blessing of schools at the new Trinity High School and St. Joseph Junior High School in Manchester on Thursday.

St. Joseph

From Page A8

interests of our students, from the state-of-the-art science labs and multimedia room to a new wing solely dedicated to fine arts," said Nathan Stanton, president of Trinity and St. Joseph.

Manchester Bishop Peter Libasci blessed each school and sprinkled holy water at the cornerstone where the schools meet. More than 300 people attended Thursday's event, including alumni, city and church officials, and students.

Trinity graduate Cardinal Gerald Lacroix, the archbishop of Quebec City and the first Roman Catholic cardinal from New Hampshire, sent flowers and blessings.

The \$26 million first phase of the construction is nearly done. Classes will begin this week, and crews are finishing work on six new high school classrooms, an outdoor courtyard with amphitheater, a fitness center and enhanced safety and security.

Features of the new construction include smart TVs in every classroom, a shared robotics lab, a new ventilation system, a new gymnasium floor, a new chapel, and an elevator to make all floors accessible.

The robotics lab is home to a high school team that has been ranked nationally and internationally, previously placing 13th in the world. Trinity has been at the forefront with its robotics program since the late 1990s, and the new high-tech space with equipment for all experience levels will help students immeasurably, teacher Joe Pouliot said.

"But it's really all up to the students. They build and program the robots, not me," he said. "These programs provide greater opportunities for students to expand their skills and talents like

never before."

Seventh and eighth graders will have their own wing with their own restrooms and cafeteria, along with windows overlooking the fairways of Derryfield Country Club.

Students from both schools will take advantage of newer, specialized classrooms and will have weekly Mass together.

Stanton said high school students will also buddy up with junior high kids through a mentorship program.

Show of official support

Manchester Mayor Jay Ruais and Ward 4 Alderman Christine Fajardo lauded the improved private schools, saying better facilities at Trinity, which was built in 1970, and St. Joseph are compatible with efforts to better educate schoolchildren in the city.

"We want to educate all of our

students to the best of our ability," Ruais said. "So, I think when you're seeing things like this in our schools, and Trinity and St. Joseph's have Manchester kids who go here, it's always wonderful to see upgrades being made, renovations being made. Anything we can do to better educate our children."

Fajardo, who lives a short distance from the schools, said she's enjoyed following the progress for 18 months and seeing an "absolutely beautiful" finished product.

"In terms of the legacy and the future, just like the Manchester public school district, they're looking to modernize facilities," Fajardo said. "It's incredible to see that the students here will have access to the most state-of-the-art, modern facilities, which we know is critical for today's learners and the future."

Funding for the project came

from a \$20 million bond, gifts and fundraising. The Diocese of Manchester contributed \$1 million. Stanton said there's been great alumni engagement in raising money, and a \$5 million fundraising campaign is ongoing to finish the job.

Originally a grammar school for kindergarten through eighth grade at the corner of Pine and Bridge streets administered as part of St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Joseph became a regional junior high school in the late 1970s. The building was sold in 2015, and the school was relocated to the second floor of Cardinal Lacroix Academy on Belmont Street.

St. Joseph will hold an open house Oct. 10. Trinity's open house will follow on Oct. 24.

The second phase of the project is slated for completion in the fall of 2025.

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Online Version

For St. Joseph Junior High School, everything old is new again

By Dave Pierce Union Leader Staff

Aug 30, 2024 Updated Sep 1, 2024



Manchester Bishop Peter Libasci sprinkles holy water as he blesses the new wing of the building that now houses Trinity High School and St. Joseph Junior High School on Aug. 29.

Dave Lane/Union Leader Staff

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Manchester Bishop Peter Libasci speaks at the ribbon-cutting and blessing of schools at the new Trinity High School and St. Joseph Junior High School on Thursday.

By Dave Lane/Union Leader Staff



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David Lane/Union Leader Staff

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Guests and students from Trinity High School and St. Joseph Junior High stand for an opening prayer at Thursday's ribbon cutting. The new wing, which houses St. Joseph, is to the left in the background.

[Dave Lane/Union Leader Staff](#)

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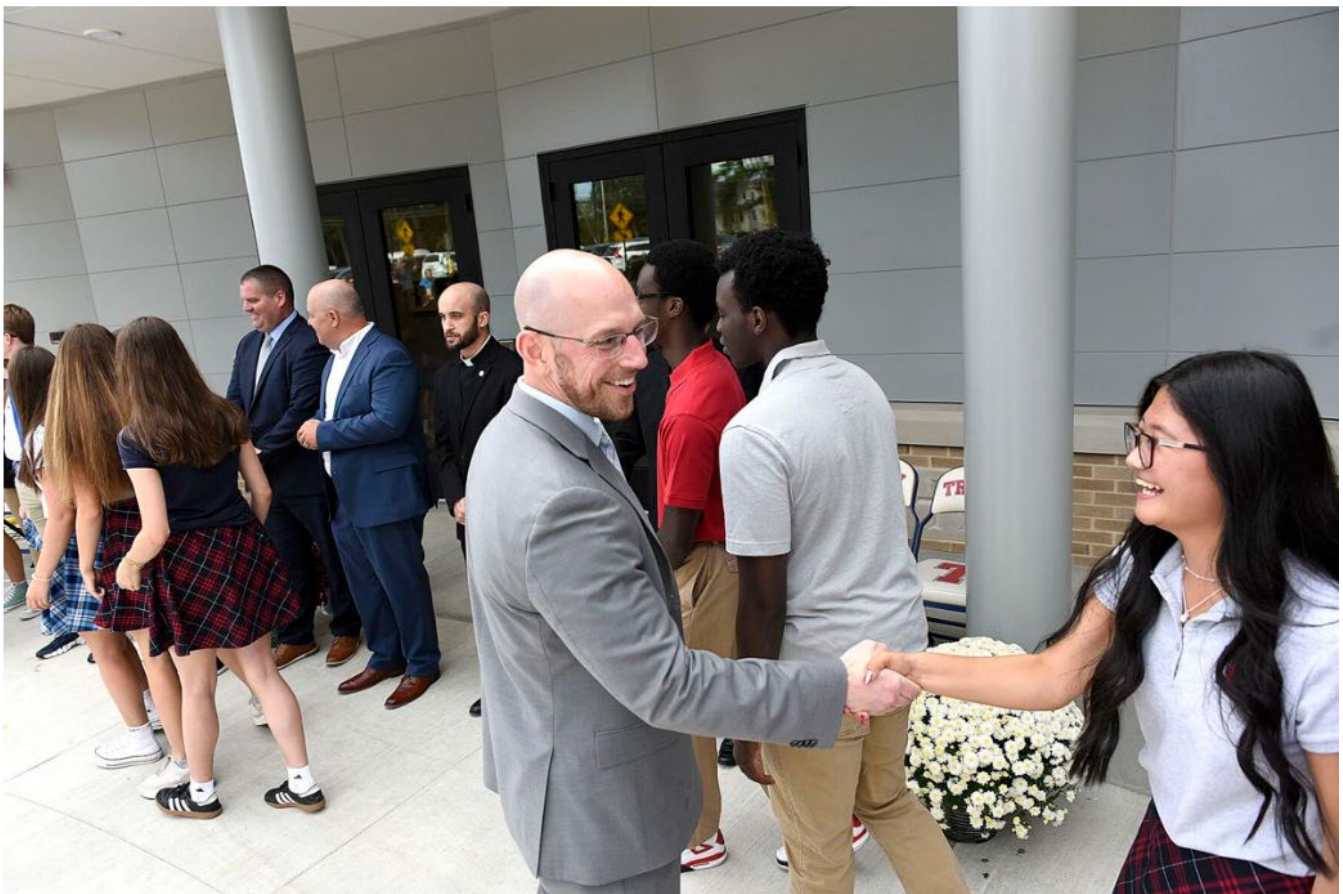
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Manchester Mayor Jay Ruais greets students at the ribbon-cutting and blessing of schools at the new Trinity High School and St. Joseph Junior High School on Aug. 29. Above right, a crowd gathers at the event.

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Source: [For St. Joseph Junior High School, everything old is new again | Education | unionleader.com](#)