PCI NORTHEAST
A Chapter of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

# ROCHESTER MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITON

**Rochester, Massachusetts**

**ARCHITECT**
Flansburgh Architects
Boston, MA

**ENGINEER**
EDG Inc.
Medford, MA

**CONTRACTOR**
Gilbane Building Company
Boston, MA

**PRECASTER**
J.P. Carrara & Sons, Inc.
Middlebury, VT

## PROJECT FACTS

- 2 LEVELS–34,385 SF
- 40 INSULATED WALL PANELS
- 47 NON-INSULATED WALL PANELS
- 144 HOLLOWCORE PLANK
- CONSTRUCTION START–APRIL 2010
- OCCUPANCY–JANUARY 2011
- PROJECT COMPLETED ON TIME
- CLASSROOMS ADDED–22
- COMPLIES WITH THE MA-CHPS


*Photo courtesy of Gilbane Building Company.*

# PRECAST CONCRETE & SCHOOLS

*Photos courtesy of J.P. Carrara & Sons, Inc.*

Like many schools across the country, Rochester Memorial Elementary School in Rochester, Massachusetts, grappled with the problem of a growing student body in a limited space. To accommodate the ever-increasing number of students with sufficient room and facilities, it became necessary to expand their existing facility with a new addition.

Of course, school cannot be put on hold to accommodate construction, so schedule was a major point of emphasis for the expansion. There was a 10-month window from design to occupancy so the school could to meet the first day back-to-school deadline. This was a challenge taken on by the project team, which consisted of Flansburgh Architects in Boston, engineering firm EDG Inc. in Medford, Massachusetts, contractor Gilbane Building Company in Boston and precaster J.P. Carrara & Sons, Inc., in Middlebury, Vermont.

The contractor knew that precast concrete is ideal for projects with tight schedules, so the material choice was an easy one. "While the precast design was being finalized, the site work and foundation work could take place," explained George Malakidis of Gilbane Construction Company. Using precast saved valuable time on the project. By the time the foundation was completed, the precast insulated wall panels and hollowcore floor and ceiling planks were ready for erection. The entire two stories were enclosed in just three weeks.

The 22-classroom addition, which complies with MA-CHPS standards for healthy, energy-efficient green schools, began construction in April 2010, was completed on schedule and was occupied in January 2011.