



Back to School Series: Careful Planning and Communication Helps Wilmington Friends School Opens for the 2013-2014 School Year

Author : andrewhickey

EDiS Wilmington Friends School Project Team

Operations Manager: [Jerry Doherty](#)

Project Manager: Andrew Hickey

Field Manager: George Cooper

Contracts: Cyndi Slothour

Accounting: Christina Loveland

Safety & Health Manager: Jim Ruggiero

[caption id="attachment_8291" align="alignright" width="250"]



Wilmington Friends School fire - Photo by ABC News[/caption]

In December 2012, EDiS began **construction** on the [Performing Arts Center and Gymnasium renovations](#) for **Wilmington Friends School**, a project totaling 25,000 square feet. A team consisting of EDiS members, Voith & Mactavish Architects and Wilmington Friends representatives, began **reconstruction** of a [performing arts center](#) and [athletic facility](#) that was previously destroyed by a fire on April 17, 2012. The project consists of three major components: a new, state-of-the-art, 500-seat **performing arts center**, complete with sound, lighting and special stage equipment, a complete **renovation** of the existing 9,000 square foot **gymnasium** with new gym flooring, HVAC and electrical systems and a new main entrance with a multi-story curtain wall and a vegetative **green roof**.

One of the most important goals at the **Wilmington Friends School** project required a great deal of **planning** on the project team's part. Over the summer months, the [construction and design](#) teams worked hard to secure all safety measures for students who would be attending summer camp during the day, as well as for the staff that would frequent the facility. One of the **plans** to ensure safety was to shut down the areas that were being utilized during the camp and **build** partitions to separate the work from the students and staff. Additionally, since the project required work on two floors, the team successfully sequenced the work to affect only one floor at a time. This helped prevent students or staff from walking into a zone that was under **construction**. As work continues on the **building** during the school year, the sections under



construction will be secured so that students and faculty are able to navigate the building without harm.



Safety measures are definitely a priority for the project team, however they were not the only element that required a lot of **planning**. The design of the facility calls for a new entrance lobby called Ryan's deck. The lobby opens to existing internal occupied areas. This aspect of the project required a **roof** to keep it dry in inclement weather and safe from construction activity. The team foresaw the need for this ahead of time and was able to **plan** a solution to keep both students and **contractors** safe and the area secure and dry. Communication was another huge key to success. Our team consistently strives to keep an open line of communication. The team frequently updates each other on any changes during the project, big or small, with Wilmington Friends always informed. Additionally, the team meets with Wilmington's Fire Marshall on numerous occasions to make sure we are on the right track.



The additions and renovations project at **Wilmington Friends School** is expected to be finished in March 2014. Over the summer, the team was able to complete a fair amount of work to continue the progress of the building on schedule while maintaining Wilmington Friends access to all of their summer programs. Due to careful **planning** ahead and consistent communication from the team, the Friends representatives and the **designers**, the project was able to move along smoothly. We look forward to seeing the completed project and to see **Wilmington Friends School** use their brand **new facilities**.



EDiS Company

One company, a full spectrum of business solutions.
<http://www.ediscompany.com>

[Contact us today!](#)