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School finds new home in old church

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)

The private Westside School is renovating and expanding the former Hillcrest Presbyterian Church for its future home. The 1970s-era church is at 10404 34th Ave. S.W. in West Seattle's Arbor Heights neighborhood.

General contractor Kirtley-Cole Associates started construction in May and is expected to finish in May 2015.

Crews will reconfigure 35,000 square feet of the church to create classrooms, offices, support, lunchroom and storage space. About 20,000 square feet of new space will be created, including a second floor of classrooms inserted into the almost 45-foot-tall nave. The existing gym will be retained.



Image by Sundberg Kennedy Ly-Au Young Architects [\[enlarge\]](#)

Sundberg Kennedy Ly-Au Young Architects writes on its website that it was challenge was to preserve and adapt the soaring glu-lam arches of the nave and gym spaces while connecting them with a new entry foyer so the two seemingly separate spaces can function as a school.

Other members of the design team are Pace (civil), Thomas Rengstorf & Associates (landscape architect), Quantum Consulting Engineers (structural), Ecotope (mechanical) and Terra Associates (soils).

Earlier this year Hillcrest Presbyterian Church moved a few blocks to the east, to 2656 S.W. 104th St.

The K-8 Westside School occupies about 50,000 square feet at 7740 34th Ave. S.W., about a mile and a half south of the future campus.

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