

WELCOME TO  
MINERVA FRANCE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# MINERVA FRANCE ELEMENTARY

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Columbus, Ohio

A brand-new, 530 student elementary school with LEED Silver Status that was in urgent need due to the growing population of Westerville City Schools.







## PAST INFORMS PRESENT

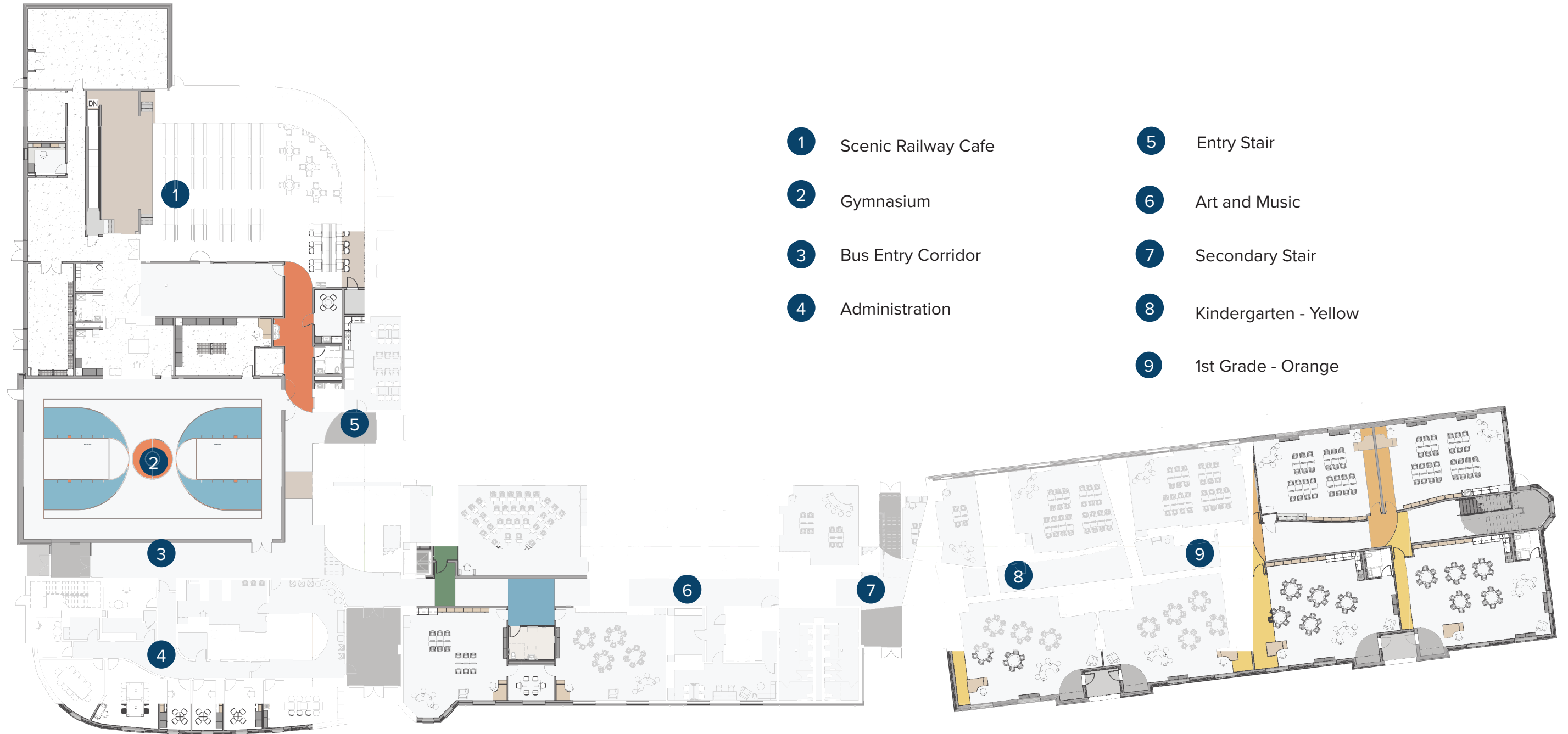
The Minerva France Elementary School project is a LEED Silver Certified, 65,000 square-foot, new building that serves 530 students (K-5) and 40 staff members. The work began in 2020 and was completed in the summer of 2022.

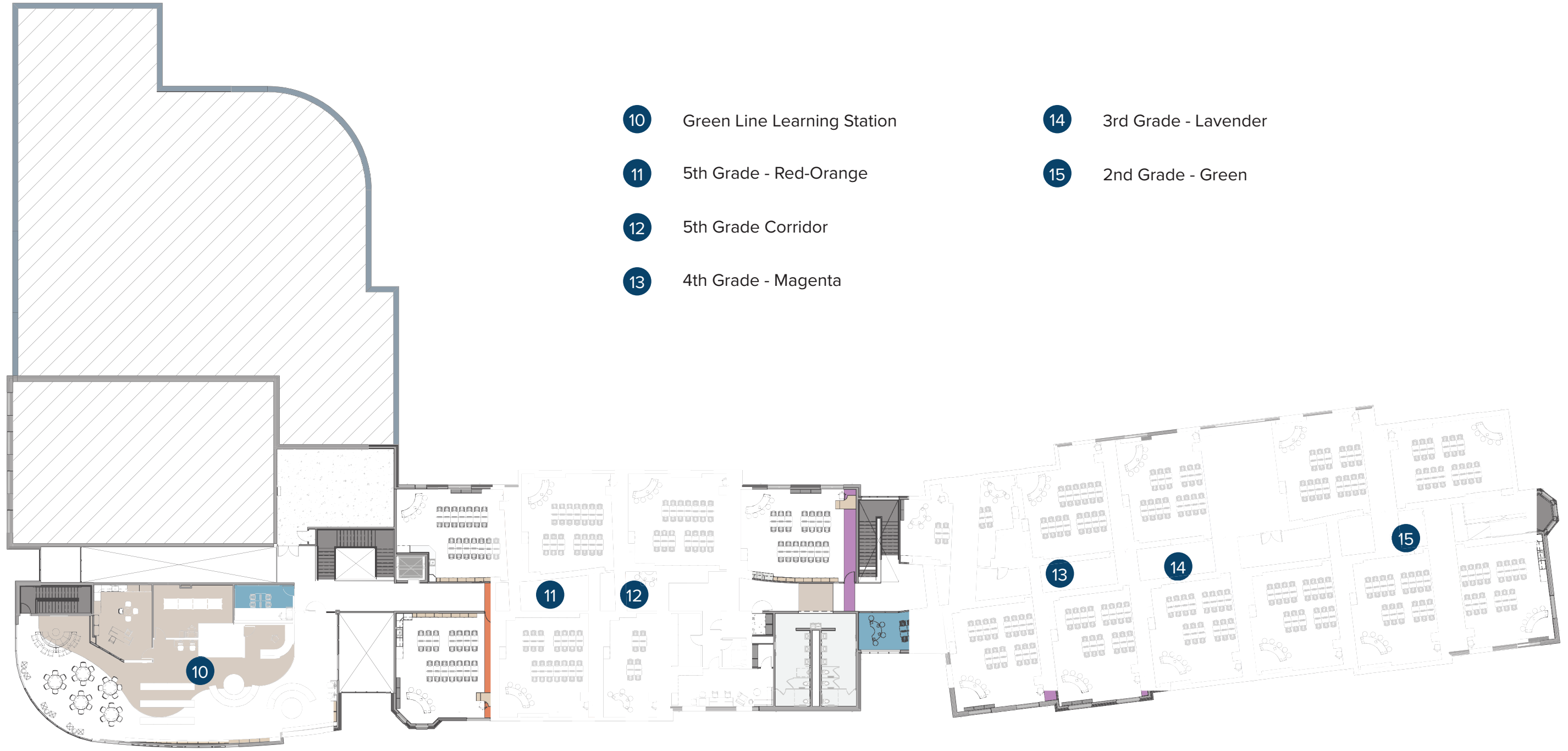
The school is named after one of the district's former students, Minerva J. France, a Black woman who set a precedent in librarianship and higher education in Central Ohio in the 1920s and 1930s.

Design inspiration was derived from the rich history of the project site, previously the Minerva Park Amusement Park that was built in the early 1900's.

The Scenic Railway, the park's original wooden roller coaster, influenced the building's materials, curvy design elements, and is the namesake for the school's café.

Similarly, the library, named the Green Line Learning Station, pays homage to the Green Mile Trolley Car that transported patrons from the park grounds to the city center.









## FORWARD FOCUSED

The building is solar-oriented, with all classroom windows facing the North and South ends of the site. Large windows with integrated blinds allow ample light to flood the classrooms without creating harsh glare. LED lights on multi-switches with dimming capabilities also help create comfortable and customized classroom settings.

To facilitate interaction, classrooms are equipped with touchscreen televisions, flanked by large markerboards and tackboards on either side. Student desks feature markerboard desktops and all classrooms include headsets and microphones for the teachers' enhanced audio system.

Every classroom and small group room at Minerva France Elementary is equipped with built-in storage cubbies and a sink.





## COLORFUL WAYFINDING

The building interior is intended to be lively and colorful – a space where children are excited, inspired and engaged. Warm field colors throughout the building create a homey atmosphere, and corridor wall curvatures create depth.

Every grade level at the elementary school has a corresponding floor color that begins in the classroom and floods into the hallways. These color bands create collisions of color at unique and varied angles.

Corridor details are linear in design, with color sweeping from the floor onto door frames. These colors serve as guides toward destination points, making it easier for students to find their way to classrooms. Hallways also feature extended learning areas that include soft seating, group tables, and markerboards nestled into wall curvatures.





## DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIPS

Prominent gathering spaces in the building focus heavily on floor-to-ceiling relationships. Forms, bright colors, and materials are intended to evoke the playful nature of yesteryears' amusement park and wooden roller coaster. The spaces include swooping curves with wood paneling, painted exposed ceilings, and historic murals.



# LUNCH IS SERVED

The school's Scenic Railway Café includes a variety of seating types with a mix of banquette and booth seating, cafe tables with chairs, and traditional folding tables with bench seating. In a space full of light, the long, curved glazing gives way to views of the surrounding wooded area and playground outside.

Curved ceiling design elements draw the eye upward to the orange glow of the painted, exposed structure. The Scenic Railway Café also features a hand-painted mural of it's roller coaster namesake.











## INVITING INTERIORS

The building incorporates the use of dynamic, curved walls, saturated color, and warm field materials to evoke serenity and a sense of playfulness. Spaces are well-lit and include ample storage for state-of-the-art equipment.





# IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Sound absorbing wall panels keep this tall corridor quiet,  
yet beautiful with a bold geometric design.





THE GREEN LINE LEARNING STATION





# INSPIRED LEARNING

The school's Green Line Learning Station is designed to feel like a treehouse nested in the canopy, providing an inspired view. The branching light fixtures, green exposed ceiling, and winding, wood paneling, mirror the surrounding forest. The space features a teaching area with a 75-inch Smart touchscreen television and a variety of inviting furniture pieces.



