

DEKALB HIGH SCHOOL, DEKALB, ILLINOIS

PROJECT CASE STUDY



ULTRASTOR™ INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS

“The Planning Guide was extremely helpful, including the floor plan guidelines and square footage calculations... We now have enough space for instruments and uniforms.”

– Travis Erikson, Choral Director/District Music Coordinator



STRING INSTRUMENT RACKS



GEARBOSS® STORAGE SOLUTIONS

CHALLENGE

Design and equip music suite at new high school, including rehearsal and performance spaces.

WENGER SOLUTION

Assisting music faculty with planning resources, including recommending and installing storage solutions for instruments and apparel. Providing mobile, ergonomic furniture for rehearsals and music lab. Creating supportive acoustical environment.

BENEFITS

- Durable, high-quality equipment rewards investment
- Advanced planning positively influences facility design
- Mobile risers maximize versatility for rehearsal and performance
- Uniform storage solutions offer protection, mobility
- Specialized furniture improves rehearsal organization and comfort
- Portable acoustical shells improve sound projection

HIGHLIGHTS

“I strongly preferred Wenger products when we itemized what we needed for our new high school,” recalls Travis Erikson, Choral Director/District Music Coordinator at DeKalb High School in DeKalb, Illinois.

When prioritizing, Erikson said he would rather have one Wenger product he needed, that he knew would last, instead of five other things he knew would break later on. Erikson had worked at the previous school for nine years; he showed the FF&E team how some of their non-Wenger products were not holding up.

This included the previous instrument storage cabinets, which he called a “nightmare” for their inferior quality. Without bolt-through construction, many doors had been ripped off.

“We advocated very hard for Wenger because I was confident other cabinets would need replacing in five or ten years,” remarks Erikson. “Our Wenger cabinets have held up very well – they’re fantastic!”

Besides instruments, DeKalb High School relies on a number of Wenger storage solutions for uniforms and costumes. Cabinets contain band uniforms, choir robes and madrigal costumes, with three Rack ‘n Roll carts used frequently for transporting items between the storage room, dressing rooms and rehearsal spaces. “It’s easier and faster to take the costumes to the students,” Erikson comments.

Mobility is also a big advantage of the GearBoss carts used for marching band uniforms. “Our band director is very happy with them,” notes Erikson, explaining that the carts are rolled into the common area when students dress for marching band.

Erikson credits Wenger’s Planning Guide for Secondary School Music Facilities for impacting the layout of the new music suite. “The floor plan guidelines and square footage calculations were extremely helpful,” he comments. “Following its recommendations made all the difference – we now have enough space for instruments and uniforms.”

For better organized rehearsals, Erikson uses the Rehearsal Resource Center to hold his laptop for taking attendance, along with sheet music to pass out or collect. Necessary items like writing utensils and passes are easily accessible. “It’s fantastic – and I can roll it out of the way in just a second,” he says.

Students like the Nota Music Posture Chairs, which Erikson describes as “very comfortable.” As a singer, he prefers to sit on the front of the chair, but he also finds it comfortable sitting against the back.

“I think band students appreciate these chairs even more than choir students,” explains Erikson, adding that flute players and some other musicians prefer to have their elbows free.

The Music Lab Workstations provide students with easy accessibility to technology. “Everything you need is in one place, with cords easily managed and the built-in powerstrip,” Erikson notes. “The workstations are beautiful and very well-made.”

Along with the adjustable height, he also appreciates the mobility; it’s easy to reconfigure the music lab or move workstations into other rooms.

This option to reconfigure is also offered by the Versalite seated risers in the choir room, where they are used daily in rehearsal. “They give us the flexibility to rearrange the room if desired – for a festival, recital or other activity,” Erikson states.

These risers are usually paired with a Legacy Acoustical Shell, both in the choir room daily and in the gym for festivals and other events. (The school auditorium features a Diva shell.)

“The Legacy shells work great – students can hear themselves a lot better with the acoustical shell,” concludes Erikson. “I certainly can hear the ensemble much better as a director.”



MUSIC LAB WORKSTATIONS



LEGACY® ACOUSTICAL SHELLS, VERSALITE™ SEATED RISERS, REHEARSAL RESOURCE CENTER AND NOTA® CHAIRS



ULTRASTOR™ STORAGE CABINETS AND RACK ‘N ROLL® GARMENT RACK

PRODUCT LIST

Planning Guide for Secondary School Music Facilities, Diva® & Legacy® Acoustical Shells, STRATA® Pit Filler, UltraStor™ Storage Cabinets, Rack ‘n Roll® Garment Racks, String Instrument Racks, Folio Cabinets, Music Library System, Nota® Chairs, Tablet Arms, Chair Move & Store Carts, Rehearsal Resource Center, Expanded Music Lab Workstations, Workstation Chairs, Versalite® Seated Risers, Signature® Choral Risers, OnBoard® Bass Drum/Gong Cart and Gearboss® Carts and Shelving.