

GATEWAY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

PROJECT CASE STUDY



MUSIC REHEARSAL ROOM EQUIPMENT



INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS



MUSIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

“We insisted that Wenger was the only option if we were going to build this facility the right way.”

***- Robert Read
Band Director***

CHALLENGE

Functional, durable and attractive storage solutions for instruments, sheet music, uniforms and costumes.

WENGER SOLUTION

Designing functional cabinet configurations and providing a cabinet finish that complements interior décor. Offering flexible, portable storage equipment to serve multiple purposes.

BENEFITS

- Improved supervision and security for expensive, fragile instruments
- Centralized sheet music storage speeds inventory management
- Cherry finish coordinates with rehearsal room aesthetics
- Flexible storage and transport for seasonal uniforms and costumes

HIGHLIGHTS

“Before our renovation, students kept their instruments in old, kennel-like bins in a separate storage room,” says Robert Read, Band Director at Gateway Senior High School in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. “The cabinets were terrible — the particleboard construction was falling apart and many doors had become bent.”

While the renovation was being planned, both Read and Choral Director Erich Lascek lobbied hard for specifying instrument cabinets and other storage equipment from Wenger. “We insisted that Wenger was the only option if we were going to build this facility the right way,” Read recalls. “Although Wenger was on the state bid list, administrators pressured Read to consider different listed companies. I knew the others couldn’t match Wenger’s quality and durability, and as one example I showed my administration our existing, broken-down cabinets.” Along with Gateway’s principal, William Short, Read also visited a nearby high school that had purchased Wenger instrument storage cabinets several years earlier.

“After seeing the difference first-hand, he echoed my recommendation,” says Read. “He said that if wanted to make a state-of-the-art, first-class facility that would last for many, many years, we needed to choose Wenger.”

The renovation project coincided with Wenger’s introduction of new cabinet finish options, and the cherrywood finish was selected to coordinate with other woodwork in the rehearsal room. Read says everything looks “fantastic” and they’ve received many compliments. He believes his students work harder to take care of such nice-looking, high-quality equipment. “They’re a little more respectful,” he notes. Read likes having the instrument storage inside the rehearsal room because it’s easier to supervise student activity.

As part of the renovation, Gateway also expanded its Music Library System from Wenger, adding a dozen units to the ten installed several years before. “We had filing cabinets all over the place before,” says Read. The band has more than 1,000 titles, with choir and orchestra titles numbering close to 600. Sheet music is now centrally located, and inventory management is greatly improved for the three directors and the student librarians who assist them. Approximately 300 students (grades 9-12) participate in music programs at Gateway, 160 of them in the band.

PRODUCT LIST

Instrument Storage Cabinets, Music Library System, Teacher’s Wardrobe Cabinets, Rack ‘N Roll® Garment Racks and Percussion Cabinet, Trouper® Seated Risers and Signature® Standing Choral Risers, Student Music Posture Chairs and Classic 50® Music Stands.



PERCUSSION CABINET

In their offices, each director now has a Teacher’s Wardrobe cabinet, which Read says are very functional and well built. “I had almost nothing before, just a ramshackle closet I made from a kit, which leaned precariously to one side.” Gateway’s four new Rack ‘N Roll carts have also proven popular. During marching band season, they are used to hold uniforms and raincoats. “They are terrific!” says Read. “After a wet performance, they work very well for drying out raincoats.” And for the spring musical, the Rack ‘n Roll carts hold all the show costumes. “It’s great to be able to hang all the costumes and move them wherever we need them,” he notes. “They are tall enough that we don’t worry about even long gowns dragging on the floor.”

Read also likes the convenient shelves above and below the hanging bar. During marching band, they hold hats and plumes. For the musical, they help keep costume pieces handy. “We’re very pleased with all our Wenger products,” concludes Read. “They all work well and will look great for many years to come.”