

PFLUGERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS



PROJECT PROFILE



TRANSCEND® ACTIVE ACOUSTIC SYSTEM

PFLUGERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL: AN ACOUSTICAL TOUCHDOWN AT ICONIC “FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS” LOCATION

Pflugerville High School in West Texas is recognized for its football field, as it was a filming site for the popular “Friday Night Lights” TV series. Looking beyond the field, the high school also has a robust performing arts reputation. Its Fine Arts Center (FAC) is a 1,000-seat auditorium used for theater performances, band and choir concerts, music camps, dance and talent competitions, prom fashion shows and more.

Built in 1973, FAC was overdue for an acoustical upgrade to better serve nearly 2,000 students, district-wide events, and the broader community.

“Transcend made such a big difference. Our students were shocked. They were truly in awe!”

*– Manual Gamez,
Director of Fine Arts,
Pflugerville Independent School District*

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CHALLENGE

“The main challenge in our space was the ability [for the audience] to hear clearly what was being presented on stage,” said Manuel (Manny) Gamez, director of fine arts for Pflugerville Independent School District (PfISD). Typical of many school auditoriums, FAC was an acoustically “dry” space. It worked well enough for drama performances and amplified events where less reverberation is desired. Yet the reverberation time was too short to provide good support for band and choir performances.

SOLUTION

- A Transcend® Active Acoustic System was installed to help create a customizable acoustic environment. The installation consisted of:
 - four microphones
 - a network of 23 wall-mounted loud speakers
 - 34 overhead speakers
 - four in-ceiling subwoofers
- Switching out ceiling tiles over the seating area with more sound-absorptive acoustic ceiling tiles
- Acoustical wall panels for additional sound absorption

BENEFITS

- Dramatically improved sound quality for audiences
- Fast and easy change of acoustical environment using Transcend presets



TRANSCEND ACTIVE ACOUSTIC SYSTEM



SPEAKERS AND ACOUSTICAL PANELS



PROGRAMABLE PRESETS

SELECTING THE SOLUTION

In contemplating acoustic solutions, Gamez knew about Wenger's Transcend Active Acoustic System and was ready to take a look. Transcend uses a system of microphones and speakers, and digital signal processing to create a customizable acoustic environment. Transcend can simulate nearly any venue's acoustics at the push of a button.

He suspected that Transcend would give FAC ultimate flexibility, but he first needed to hear and experience the system. He accepted Wenger's invitation to visit – and listen to – exactly that at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. His impression and report back to PflISD helped implement the system at Pflugerville, said Matt Hildebrand, Wenger's manager of acoustic products.

"Transcend helps to blend and balance sound throughout the space for the audience. It also helps give performers some feedback so that they can sing or play more freely and confidently," Hildebrand explained.

Wenger Went to Work

The process began by Wenger's experts first examining the space and listening to FAC's natural acoustics. From there, the team determined the parameters of the Transcend System, specifically, the number and location of microphones and speakers that would pair with the processor. But some acoustical housekeeping was required first.

"Our intent was to create an even drier space for amplified events and remove the flutter echo for more performance flexibility," Hildebrand said. That required some additional acoustic panels throughout the auditorium.

Wenger also switched out the ceiling tiles over the seating area with more sound- absorptive acoustic ceiling tiles. The feat required temporarily removing large sections of audience seating to accommodate lift equipment. This allowed the school to replace the carpet in FAC prior to the Wenger team re-installing the seats.

The Transcend System at FAC includes the school's seven acoustical presets, each replicating a different venue:

- Voice Lift (Lecture Hall)
- Large Hall
- Large Auditorium
- Cathedral Hall
- Recital Hall
- Medium Auditorium
- Concert Hall

"Truly in Awe!" Results

The FAC acoustical upgrades were completed in December 2017 and ready to face their toughest critics: students. Gamez said their reaction was immediate.

"Transcend made such a big difference. Our students were shocked. They were truly in awe!" He added, "Transcend has helped make Pflugerville High School the district's flagship facility for many of its activities and performances. It's very rewarding to see our students perform in this venue."

Hildebrand agrees. "It's a much more flexible space. Before the installation, it was not a good space for band or choir performances. Now it's a multi-purpose venue for whatever event is happening."

He says a Phase Two is likely on the horizon. Now that FAC has improved the audience listening experience, the school is looking ahead to expand acoustical efforts that improve acoustics for on-stage performers, using additional stage-mounted speakers. Gamez is ready to collaborate.

"The process of working with Wenger's team on this project was amazing. I was taken aback by their knowledge and professionalism. Bravo!"

PRODUCT LIST

Transcend Active Acoustic System (four microphones, a network of 23 wall-mounted loud speakers, 34 overhead speakers, four in-ceiling subwoofers); acoustical wall panels; sourcing of acoustical ceiling tiles.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Transcend Active Acoustic System and acoustical wall panels
- Switching out all existing ceiling tiles over the audience seating area with high-absorption acoustical panels.



About Wenger | J.R. Clancy

Wenger and J.R. Clancy provide the widest array of innovative, high-quality products and services for the performing arts industry. Their advanced products provide the highest levels of safety and reliability, as well as aesthetics that help transform performance venues and engineer unforgettable experiences.



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USA/5-18/200/W/LT0199B



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