

THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT WOULDN'T THINK TO FUND ONLY 80 YARDS OF A FOOTBALL FIELD.



FUNDING ONLY 80% OF YOUR MUSIC SUITE DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE EITHER.

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE SURE YOU GET THE SPACE YOU NEED – BEFORE THE BOND ISSUE IS PASSED.

It's up to you to know the requirements for the ideal music suite and advocate your case – before the building process passes you by. If you wait, or are not committed to the cause, you face the likelihood that the space you get is inadequate for proper music education and performance. Don't settle for less than 100% of what you need to make your program a success. Plan smart and start planning now.

Tip: Use the Wenger Planning Guide to help figure out space and effectively present your case. (Call or download a copy from our website if you do not have one.)

Tip: Make your case for space by promoting the many studies linking student well being and overall achievement with music education.

Tip: Contact your Wenger Area Field Representative to discuss your Music Suite design needs.



Every great music suite needs a champion. Who is yours?

It could be your principal, the facility planner, a district supervisor, another teacher, the architect, a key arts person in your community. Find another advocate who understands and who can help you convince key decision makers of the need for quality music education.

TO GET TO YOUR IDEAL MUSIC SUITE, FOLLOW A SUCCESSFUL ROAD MAP AND BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY EARLY.

By the bond phase, costs are already based on studies and preliminary designs. To be successful, you need to influence the process during the preliminary stages, long before the bond, and you must take every opportunity to discuss your needs with the administration and architects.

Tip: When describing the deficiencies of your existing facility, certain hot button issues will help motivate the key decision makers. These include health issues like harmful acoustics, overcrowding, code violations and deteriorating facilities.

ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS – 5 STEPS:



RESEARCH SUCCESS

RESEARCH SUCCESS – Tour successful facilities recently built in your area and ask key questions: Is your space adequate? How is it acoustically? How is storage? What would you change? What can't you live without? Use their stories, positive and negative, to illustrate your case.

Tip: Before you tour, step back and consider the space you have and what you'd change.



DETERMINE SPACE

DETERMINE SPACE – Wenger can help guide you through the estimation of space and provide data on safe dB levels for teachers and students, in-depth storage analysis, traffic patterns, HVAC concerns and much more.

Tip: Contact your Wenger Area Field Representative. They work with school facility design experts everyday. They can help you articulate the critical factors of Acoustics, Floor Plan, Storage and Equipment that will impact the effectiveness of the Music Suite design.



ANTICIPATE LIMITATIONS

ANTICIPATE LIMITATIONS – Understanding roadblocks up front will help you find ways around them. Issues include state-mandated restrictions, cookie-cutter designs, footage standards, and LEED certification.

Tip: Compare your existing facilities to Federal, State, and MEA standards to illustrate where you are substandard.



JUSTIFY COSTS

JUSTIFY COSTS – Know what additional costs your needs require and be able to substantiate them with strong, simple statements of benefits and value.

Tip: Compare your program with others – no one would think of cutting 20 yards off a football field and losing 20 percent of the space needed for proper music education is no different.



OFFER SOLUTIONS

OFFER SOLUTIONS – Wenger can help you estimate how much money you need to achieve your goals and where you can find additional sources of funding.

Tip: Understanding key decision makers and what drives their decisions will help you tailor your case in a way that will gain their support.

History shows if you back your argument for space with sound logic and documentation and articulate it with passion, the likelihood of you receiving the ideal facility increases dramatically.

But you must start early, well before the bonding phase, and stay dedicated throughout the process. And you must advocate for your needs at meetings with faculty, the community, and consultants.

But you don't have to do it alone. Form allegiances with key decision makers, get your message to the media, and count on Wenger throughout the process. We've helped thousands of people prepare and present their case for space and we will do everything we can to help you too. Please call today for more information.

FIVE BIG THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW.

1.

Be an advocate

It's up to you to carry the torch, and if you don't ask for it, you won't get it.

2.

Get administrative support

Form allies with administration and school board members, as well as parents and local advocates of the arts.

3.

Articulate your needs

Use strong, consistent language, backed by documentation that addresses current and future needs based on enrollment.

4.

Understand the construction process

It's essential you know when key decisions are made and who will make them.

5.

Find other funding sources

A little investigation can reap important contributions from arts foundations, alumni, and corporate sponsors.

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