

# CHAPMAN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS, CHAPMAN, KS

## PROJECT CASE STUDY



*“Whether it’s buying a musical instrument or music library, you get what you pay for and it’s worth getting high-quality equipment.”*

– Marc Riegel  
Band Director

ACOUSTICABINETS™ CABINETS, STUDENT CHAIRS, CLASSIC 50® MUSIC STANDS, PERCUSSION WORKSTATION, REHEARSAL RESOURCE CENTER AND FLEX® CONDUCTOR’S SYSTEM

## CHALLENGE

Design and equip music suites in new school buildings rebuilt after tornado damage. Also provide effective storage solutions for phy ed and drama departments.

## WENGER SOLUTION

Educating music faculty about important planning topics. Developing and installing optimal arrangement of instrument cabinets and shelving to suit space and budget. Recommending acoustical solutions for rehearsal room and auditorium. Coordinating delivery and installation services with project schedules.

## BENEFITS

- Planning Guide offers helpful reference standards
- Short cabinets provide work surface and improve monitoring
- Ergonomic music chairs promote proper posture
- Flexible shelving adapts to changing storage needs
- Durable equipment withstands heavy use
- Enhanced organization and mobility for percussion equipment
- Maneuverable storage solutions optimize efficiency
- Acoustical solutions improve rehearsals and performances



ACOUSTICABINETS™ CABINETS



DELUXE PERCUSSION WORKSTATION

## HIGHLIGHTS

“In the rebuilding process after the June 2008 tornado, I said I wanted Wenger equipment,” recalls Marc Riegel, Band Director at Chapman Middle School (CMS) in Chapman, KS. “In general, the equipment that was really important to me was from Wenger.”

He says Wenger’s Planning Guide for Secondary School Music Facilities was absolutely his “bible” during this project, providing a standard to reference and including some topics he never would have thought about related to room size, space usage and acoustics.

“Throughout the process, you just have to be diligent about seeing what’s happening and asking, ‘Why isn’t this happening?’” explains Riegel, who believes he was probably the most involved teacher in the school. He notes, “A contractor’s thought processes don’t always follow what’s important for a music suite.”

## BETTER THAN HOMEMADE

The previous school building featured homemade instrument storage cabinets, built by a shop class. “They sufficed and they looked nice – for the first day,” Riegel explains, adding that the wear and tear students give equipment is mostly unintentional. The cabinets offered no security and also tore up the instrument cases.

“I cannot say enough positives about Wenger cabinets,” he comments. “They’re designed for durability – everything has been taken into account.” Riegel likes the short cabinets because they provide students a place to assemble their instruments; the cabinets also allow him to monitor students from anywhere in the room.

Wenger’s Music Library System replaced another homemade cabinet solution for storing approximately 1,500 sheet music titles. “Our home-built version worked great until I put music in it – then it was almost impossible to open,” Riegel explains, noting that the wheels were too small and he could not even fit two fingers into the handle.

As a mobile storage solution for percussion equipment, CMS has a Percussion Workstation that Riegel says is “well worth having” both for its organizational benefits and the easy mobility it provides between rehearsal and performance venues.

## RELIABLE PERFORMERS

Whether rehearsing or performing, CMS musicians rely on Wenger equipment. Riegel likes the posture support the Student Chairs provide. He adds, “They’re used throughout our district and we’ve been extremely happy with them.”

“We’ve had Wenger chairs and stands for a number of years and I think they look as good as when we bought them,” remarks Riegel. “They are highly durable – they’re not going to wear like some of the other equipment you buy.”

He says the tornado dropped debris on the stands but after cleaning they were still were durable enough to be used the following year; the Move & Store Carts also came through the storm with flying colors. Riegel finds the smaller size carts easy to maneuver and store.

For maneuverable storage near the CMS gymnasium, a GearBoss Team Cart is the answer. “The Team Cart easily moves big items out to the gym – there are hundreds of ways we can use it,” explains Derek Berns, Physical Education Teacher. “It’s very nice to have.” Inside the equipment room, GearBoss shelving helps organize athletic equipment and other supplies.

Half a mile away, at Chapman High School (CHS), Drama Teacher Lisa Divel also appreciates GearBoss shelving, which is installed in the drama work room.

“I love the versatility this shelving gives us, with places to put props, boxes and hanging items,” she remarks, adding that it looks custom-made for the space. She often sends students to this room to sew costumes, find props or obtain supplies.

The lock box enables Divel to safely store valuables, box office receipts and the fake gun used as a stage prop. “Because the gun looks so realistic, there could be serious liability issues if it was misused,” she notes.



GEARBOSS® SHELVING AND GEARBOSS® TEAM CART™



GEARBOSS® SHELVING



RACK 'N ROLL® GARMENT RACK

## SOUND INVESTMENTS

Divel's colleague, Choir Director Kyle Chamberlin, says the CHS music department counts on a variety of Wenger equipment to help the choir and band students sound their best; he also assists with band.

"Both groups have noticed how much more sound is projected in the auditorium with the Legacy shell," says Chamberlin. "It really does make a difference -- we've even had parents comment." He claims the shell is "pretty foolproof" and easy to handle.

In band rehearsals, acoustical panels on the walls and ceiling of the rehearsal room help level out the sound; Chamberlin says previously it was almost necessary to wear earplugs. He adds, "You can also hear the balance a lot easier between the winds and the percussion."

For his choirs, Chamberlin really likes the extra height offered by the four-step Signature risers, whether for larger groups or smaller, narrower arrangements. "These risers are very easy to set up, even for one person," he remarks, adding that they store compactly backstage and save quite a bit of space.

When outfitting a new school, CMS' Marc Riegel believes it usually doesn't work out to take shortcuts. He concludes, "Whether it's buying a musical instrument or music library, you get what you pay for and it's worth getting high-quality equipment."



LEGACY® ACOUSTICAL SHELLS, SIGNATURE® RISERS AND FLEX® CONDUCTOR'S SYSTEM



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## PRODUCT LIST

AcustiCabinets™, including 38" Countertop Cabinets, Rehearsal Resource Center, Conductor's System, Deluxe Percussion Workstation, Music Library System, Music Sorting Rack, Folio Cabinet, Student Chairs, Classic 50® Music Stands, Music Stand Move & Store Carts, Legacy® Acoustical Shells, Signature® Choral Risers, GearBoss® Shelving for Athletic and Drama Applications and GearBoss® Team Carts™. Wenger's [Planning Guide for Secondary School Music Facilities](#) was also a valuable resource.