

# NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLEBURY, IN

## PROJECT CASE STUDY



DIVA® ACOUSTICAL SHELL, VERSALITE® SEATED RISERS



STUDENT CHAIRS, FOLIO CABINET, MUSIC SORTING RACK, REHEARSAL RESOURCE CENTER



GEARBOSS® TEAM CART™

***“Equipment for our climbing wall and ropes course is conveniently stored inside the Team Cart. It’s lockable so we can keep everything secure.”***

*– Dave Harms, Athletic Director*

## CHALLENGE

Equip music suite, auditorium and athletic department in new high school.

## WENGER SOLUTION

Recommending riser configurations for rehearsal and performance. Designing full-stage acoustical shell to suit auditorium. Providing functional, user-friendly furniture for rehearsal and classroom spaces. Offering athletic department wide range of storage and transport solutions.

## BENEFITS

- Sturdy risers enable sure-footed choreography
- User-friendly access to music lab technology and classroom materials
- Mobile, flexible storage for P.E. and concessions supplies
- Enhanced acoustics for auditorium performances
- Improved organization of athletic equipment
- Versatile, multi-function cart hauls gear, transforms into table

## HIGHLIGHTS

To serve a growing enrollment, Middlebury Community Schools built a new high school in phases: the academic and athletic wings opened in the fall of 2008 and the fine arts wing opened a year later.

**MUSIC.** “Because the Versalite risers provide excellent stability, all our show choirs can stage full dance numbers without any worries about safety,” says Dan Baker, Choir Director & Music Department Chair at Northridge High School in Middlebury, Ind. “We’ve competed without Versalite at other locations and our choir almost literally danced the risers off of the stage!”

The Versalite risers are used quite often – in the auditorium for performances and in the choir room for both dance and show choir rehearsals. Baker’s show choir numbers more than 40 students; they generally use four rows of four Versalite platforms each, at 8”, 16”, 24” and 32” height.

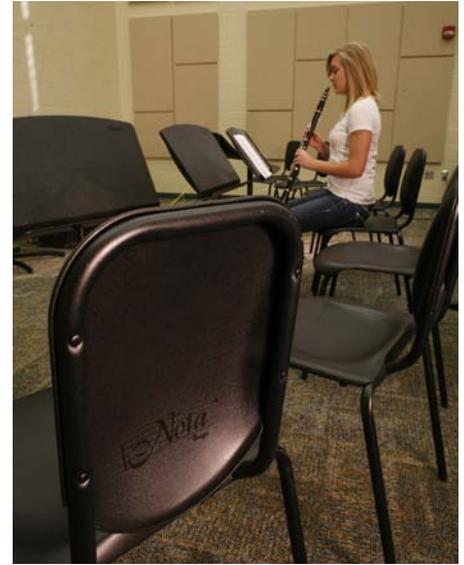
Baker appreciates Versalite’s improved leg-locking mechanism, which means the legs don’t slip out during transport – unlike some competitor’s platforms.

Performances in the new auditorium are enhanced by the Diva acoustical shell, which is set up for a variety of events including piano recitals, show choir contests and concert choir performances.

From stage floor to ceiling, the auditorium’s fly space is more than five stories high. Without the shell, Baker says the sound produced onstage goes primarily into the rafters. “The shell makes a sizable difference in containing the sound and projecting it out to the audience,” he explains. “Whether you’re onstage or in the audience, you can really tell the shell’s benefits.”



DIVA® FULL-STAGE ACOUSTICAL SHELL, SIGNATURE® CHORAL RISERS



The MIDI lab, where Baker teaches music theory, features 10 Music Lab Workstations; his choir room also has one. “They are great!” he exclaims. “I can adapt them to any task we have in our classes – whether in our music theory lab or classroom.”

With music and notation becoming so digitally integrated, Baker believes it’s essential to have the computer right next to the keyboard at all times for easy access. “The Workstation makes switching between the two really easy,” he notes.

Easy, fingertip accessibility is also a benefit of the Rehearsal Resource Center, which Baker uses in his choir room. “It’s a multipurpose center for organizing assignments properly, sorting papers and giving students a place to turn in their work.”

He describes the Notation Markerboard as “a really great tool for quick reference and ease of notation” and says it’s easy to move around the classroom or choir wing.

Sheet music storage is facilitated by the Music Library System – 16 drawers total holding approximately 2,500 titles. “They are awesome – I wish I had more,” Baker remarks. “They make it easy to store and organize everything.”



GEARBOSS® TRANSPORT™ CART

**ATHLETICS.** Improved organization is an important benefit provided by GearBoss® specialized storage and transport solutions, according to Athletic Director Dave Harms.

The football storage room at Northridge High School features the high-density GearBoss storage system comprised of rolling carts. “This is a very convenient option for storing equipment like helmets and shoulder pads,” explains Harms. “It makes equipment check-out day much more efficient.”

Before the new building, equipment was stored in boxes and various places; for check-out day it was pulled out and laid out on benches. Equipment wasn’t always organized by size, so Harms says the check-out process was time-consuming.

“Now we can pull out the GearBoss cart and it’s all right there,” he explains. “Players walk in and walk out with everything, much more quickly and efficiently.”

To prevent certain items like game uniforms from walking away and disappearing, the GearBoss carts provide valuable peace of mind by keeping equipment secure yet readily accessible. One Team Cart holds the home uniforms, with away jerseys in the other. Volleyball and cheerleading also use Team Carts.

Another Team Cart is utilized for P.E., to hold the ropes, helmets and other equipment needed for the climbing wall and ropes course. “Everything is conveniently stored inside the cart, which we can move around as necessary,” explains Harms. “And it’s lockable so we can keep everything secure.”

He says 14 school sports use the GearBoss system in one large storage room. “We’re now utilizing this room effectively, giving everyone their own secure, well-organized storage,” notes Harms. “We can hold a lot of equipment in a relatively small space.”

GearBoss shelving also helps economize space; Harms calls it “very, very useful” in multiple areas at the school, including athletic storage, P.E. storage, cheerleading storage, training room and concessions.

In the concessions area, two different GearBoss carts are employed. Storing inventory in a SportCart is very effective and convenient. “We just wheel out this cart and everything’s right there on shelves, making it easy to take inventory,” explains Harms. “When we’re done, we can wheel it back into storage and lock it up.”

The athletics department oversees seven different concessions areas, which means inventory and equipment like popcorn poppers frequently must be hauled from one place to another. Northridge High School uses a TranSport Cart indoors and outdoors to accomplish this.

The multi-purpose TranSport Cart is a versalite workhorse that can haul up to 1,000 pounds; when not carrying gear, it quickly transforms into a sturdy, multi-purpose table ideal for sideline use.

In the fall, two TranSport carts are used at the football field, for both the home and visiting teams. When the visitors arrive, Northridge personnel assist in loading their equipment onto a TranSport cart and taking it over to their sideline. “Once it’s unloaded, we show them how it becomes a training table,” explains Harms.

Raising funds to support school athletics is facilitated by their Mobile Kiosk, a self-contained merchandising cart that can be easily wheeled to indoor/outdoor games, pep rallies and other venues. Harms says it’s used quite often, especially for varsity football and varsity basketball. It’s also utilized outside for select baseball, softball or soccer games.

“The Mobile Kiosk works out very well for storing and showing merchandise,” comments Harms. “We wheel it out, open it up and – boom – everything’s ready to go. When we’re done, we simply lock it up.”



GEARBOSS® SHELIVING, TEAM CART™ AND X-CART™ SYSTEMS

## PRODUCT LIST

Music Suite: Versalite® Seated Risers, Diva® Acoustical Shell, Nota® and Student Music Posture Chairs, Classic 50® Music Stands, Conductor’s Equipment, Rehearsal Resource Center, Teacher Wardrobe Cabinet, Expanded Music Lab Workstations, Folio Cabinets, Instrument Storage Cabinets, Music Library System, Music Sorting Rack, Whiteboards, Rack ‘n Roll® Garment Rack and Signature® Risers.

Athletic Department: GearBoss® High-Density Storage System comprised of X-Carts™, Team Carts™ and SportCarts™ with accessories including short attics, helmet hangers, garment bars, bypass doors and side closures. Also TranSport™ Carts, Mobile Kiosk and GearBoss® Shelving.