

THE SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

PROJECT CASE STUDY



FLEX™ CONDUCTOR'S SYSTEM, NOTA® CHAIRS AND ROUGHNECK MUSIC STANDS

CHALLENGE

Outfit multi-purpose classroom with functional furniture and equipment to accommodate wide range of music ensembles and classes, along with individual practice.

WENGER SOLUTION

Assisting music faculty with planning advice and resources. Providing versatile, high-quality equipment to fit the available budget and offer years of trouble-free use. Designing optimal arrangement of storage cabinets based on instrumentation.

“Everyone at Wenger was very helpful throughout the entire project. They knew my budget and offered me solutions to get more for my dollar.”

*– Christopher Alberts
Director of Instrumental Music*

BENEFITS

- Comprehensive catalog offers broad selection and easy ordering
- Sturdy music stands provide stability and longevity
- Raised podium boosts visibility and aids communication
- Sound-isolating music practice room facilitates multiple activities
- Mobile stand carts speed classroom transitions
- Instrument storage cabinets improve security and organization

HIGHLIGHTS

“To outfit my new music room, I relied on the Wenger catalog – I was like a kid in a candy store,” says Christopher Alberts, Director of Instrumental Music at The School Without Walls (SWW) in Washington, D.C. “I’ve known the Wenger name since my own high school days.”

Opened in 2009 as a pilot high school for the D.C. district, SWW features wireless technology and state-of-the-art classrooms with interactive whiteboards. Classrooms are multi-functional; algebra and humanities classes are also taught in the music room.

Alberts was hired in 2008 to launch the instrumental music program. There are currently 30 music students, mostly freshman, and he plans to grow the program each year. He teaches orchestra, jazz band, stage band, guitar ensemble, applied music and AP music theory.

At SWW’s temporary location during 2008, music practice space consisted of a classroom and auditorium. The auditorium’s central location meant the whole school could hear every rehearsal.

Guaranteed sound isolation is a key benefit Alberts appreciates about the Wenger practice room installed in one corner of his classroom. “Our practice room is heaven-sent,” he comments. “My students can get in some extra individual or small-group practice time while I’m instructing a class.” Three students can comfortably fit inside and practice without disturbing the rest of the classroom. Alberts also uses the room for individual lessons.

For music stands, Alberts chose the RoughNeck model, ordering extra to anticipate future growth. “I like these heavy-duty metal stands for their durability rather than inferior stands that would wear and tear faster,” he states. “I want them to last 15 or 20 years.” Because this classroom is shared, the Move & Store Carts make it easy to move stands out of the way when necessary.



INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS, SOUND-ISOLATING MUSIC PRACTICE ROOM, AND ROUGHNECK MUSIC STANDS

When directing, he really likes how the elevated Conductor’s Podium enables him to see what’s going on in the back. “Students can obviously see me without having to try and look over or around someone’s head,” explains Alberts, who also appreciates having the Conductor’s Chair to sit on.

Before this school building opened, instrument storage was haphazard – and hazardous. “We didn’t have any storage cabinets,” Alberts recalls. Instruments were just kept on the floor, stacked in the back of the classroom.

“Approximately one third of our equipment was stolen or broken because we lacked proper storage,” remembers Alberts. “Students were supposed to stay away and keep their hands off, but that never worked.”

During the planning of his music room, Alberts told Wenger the instrumentation and what he was looking for. “Wenger’s cabinet installation turned out perfect,” states Alberts. “And it doesn’t take up as much space as I thought it would.”

Along with improving organization, the cabinets feature grille doors providing visibility inside each locker. Cabinets can be locked individually; some students use their own locks and give Alberts the combination. “It works out really well,” he comments.

Alberts says that everyone at Wenger was very helpful throughout the entire project. “They knew my budget and offered me solutions to get more for my dollar,” he recalls. “All the equipment is working great.”



TOURMASTER® CHORAL RISERS

PRODUCT LIST

Sound-Isolating Music Practice Room, Nota® Music Posture Chairs, RoughNeck Music Stands, Move & Store Stand Carts, Conductor’s System, Folio Cabinets, Instrument Storage Cabinets and Tourmaster Risers.