

STORAGE

FOR SCHOOLS

Mobile systems meet architect's storage and design needs at new Wisconsin high school

When Bray Associates designed the new Fort Atkinson High School in Fort Atkinson, Wis., the architectural firm looked for ways to optimize project funding, while providing ample storage space and maximizing student work areas. The architect met the school's needs by utilizing nine mobile systems throughout the school including electric, mechanical assist and manual.

"We have used high-density systems in schools for quite a few years," explained Rich Lundeen, design architect for Bray Associates. "Because mobile is a less expensive option, it's easier for us to tell a customer to buy a piece of furniture than to justify using conventional shelving and building extra square footage onto a building. This is especially important with schools, where space is always at a premium and funding is tight."

Fort Atkinson High School was designed with various educational pods, each consisting of a common area surrounded by classrooms. Located within the core of each academic pod adequate storage space was created within centralized storage rooms, each housing a mobile system. The school uses nine mobile systems throughout various departments and each system was uniquely tailored to meet the individual needs of each department.

Lundeen explained that mobile systems are usually only used in school administrative areas and the library. He states, however, that academic departments have the same types of storage needs. "You can never build too much storage space for teachers, and mobile systems can easily meet the unique storage needs of teachers," he said.

Items that are used throughout the year are stored in each department's central storage room. The storage areas allow easy access to materials for everyone in the department, whereas if materials were stored in a classroom they would be more difficult to share among teachers.

Several electric systems are used to provide easy movement of heavy loads and safe access. A programmable electric system



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with oblique hanging files is used in the music department for storing and organizing sheets of music. A power assist electric system is used in the art and science departments for storing heavy loads of supplies and equipment. In the school store a power assist system provides quick, easy access to school merchandise.

Mechanical assist systems are used for smaller storage needs such as in the language arts, agriculture, math, foreign language and social studies departments for storing textbooks and supplies.

The efficient design of the storage rooms allows departments to store more and, therefore, move more things out of the classroom. This not only removes clutter from the classroom, it also frees up space for more bookshelves, counters and work space, tackboards and storage space for items needed immediately. It makes for a less distracting, more comfortable environment that is more conducive to teaching and learning.

In addition to the mobile systems, Spacesaver provided stationary shelving in the library. Half-height and full-height shelving, periodical shelves and cantilever shelving satisfied the library’s storage and display needs. •



DEPARTMENT	SYSTEM	ITEMS STORED
Agriculture	Mechanical assist	Books, FFA Club supplies, magazines, newspapers
Art	Power assist	Art boards, paint, brushes, molds, wood pieces, tools, metals, books
Foreign language	Mechanical assist	Books, supplies, teaching aids
Language arts	Mechanical assist	Novels, textbooks
Math	Mechanical assist	Textbooks, supplies,
Music	Programmable electric	Sheet music in Oblique compartments, LP albums, CDs, audio cassettes, videos
School store	Power assist	Business Club merchandise including school supplies and spirit wear
Science	Power assist	Science equipment, textbooks
Social studies	Mechanical assist	Videos, supplies, textbooks
Library	Stationary	Books, periodicals