

Memorandum

To: Laurie Hunter, Justin Cameron
From: Kristen Olsen, Phil Poinelli
Project: Concord Middle School
Re: Performance Space Descriptions
Distribution: Hill, SBC, SMMA, EwingCole(MF)

Date: 4/17/2020
Project No.: 19153.00

The purpose of this memo is to outline basic information on what to expect from the three different performance space types being studied for the Concord Middle School Project. These include a Cafetorium, Black Box Theater and an Auditorium.

Cafeteria Platform – 1,600 SF (cafeteria 5,000 sf)

- For best viewing, room should be a single space and rectangular, typically with the platform on one of the short legs of the rectangle
- Platform allows for an informal proscenium, small fore stage; steps the width of the proscenium; height is variable but often 18” to 24” above the host room floor level; modest wings
- Ramp for accessibility within the cafeteria and within line of sight
- Seating – children may sit cross legged on the floor or assume loose chairs (stack on dolly), use 7 sf/chair = 714 max capacity, chair storage room required
- No rigging, no fly loft
- Dead hung curtain, retractable not permitted by code
- Performance acoustics difficult to achieve, sound isolation is achieved with absorptive panels but not to performance levels of an enclosed Auditorium
- Due to shared space with cafeteria seating, there will be windows that would require dimming or darkening shades depending on the school’s requirements.
- Cafeteria tables will typically be collapsed and stored in the same area (or temporarily in the gym if available) when the cafeteria floor is set up with loose chairs
- Frequently connected to the gymnasium with an operable partition to create more seating capacity.
- Local sound system. Typically located in the wing of the platform, no control room, no sound table within the space, controls typically from a panel on the platform.
- Spot lighting provided within the cafeteria, exposed, no catwalk; lighting controlled from a panel on the platform

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- **Black Box Theater:**

- This is a single, rectangular room, flat floored, allowing flexible configurations
- Performance or dais can be on the flat floor or on a low platform(s). Platforms are generally folding table like pieces in heights of 6" or 8", to a maximum height of 18" – 24". These pieces can be assembled to any size and temporarily placed or de-constructed as needed. Location of platform is flexible.
- No rigging, no fly loft
- No curtains
- Black Box Theater can be any size desired with varying seating capacities. Example: a 4,000 sf room might be arranged with seating for 200 in electrically retractable bleachers with back rests and 200 in loose chairs (stack on dolly), chair storage room required
- Performance acoustics achievable.
- Performance sound system with sound control board possible
- Performance lighting would be exposed, theater style lighting with control booth, no catwalk with spots.
- Typically, few or no windows
- Typically painted black or other dark color
- Flooring could be a sprung wood construction or resilient rubber

- **Conventional Auditorium / Theater:**

- Fixed seats (10-13 sf/seat) depending on the capacity
- Stage 30-36" above the floor, 1,600 sf – allows for proscenium, small fore stage, modest wings, most lighting can be hidden with an overhead catwalk.
- Half or full fly loft available
- Complete rigging system available
- Conventional stage curtains
- Sloped floor and fixed seats limit the use to a conventional auditorium
- Performance acoustics: full sound system with sound control board within Auditorium
- Performance standard lighting with catwalk access, controls in booth