

We feel that the goal of our Fine Arts Programs at Melissa High School should be to open opportunities for students that help them to become well-rounded people. A vast variety of high quality programs allows every student in the building the opportunity to find a place where they belong. Particularly for those students who are not inclined to athletic programs, this is a crucial part of their academic development.

Fine arts areas are expensive. We are proposing a substantial investment up front to provide adequate facilities for long-term use. Investing more money now on things like lighting, sound/acoustics, equipment, and facilities will mean that we will not have to prepare, retrofit, or replace equipment on a consistent basis. This is a proactive investment that will open opportunities for our students in a variety of ways for years to come. Let's build big and well to provide for Melissa ISD students of all ages for years to come.

This report details the programs that should be included in our Fine Arts Department and the facilities that are necessary to provide for these opportunities.

Our assessment group worked with resource personnel to conduct an in-depth analysis of our current Melissa High School facilities and toured facilities in Frisco, Prosper, and Celina ISD properties. We have a strong desire to bring the programs listed below to their full potential before adding additional programs. **Therefore, in the current bond election, there is a desire to provide for the following:**

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Band | 4. Art |
| 2. Theatre/Debate | 5. Cheer |
| 3. Choir | 6. Drill Team/Dance |

Facilities for these programs will be placed in a Fine Arts wing within the school that can be separated from academic areas, including an auditorium and a fine arts lab. This separation allows our staff to host contests or other events for our region in many Fine Arts areas. Our MHS resource personnel state that they already receive requests to hosts these types of events. Our vision is to be the hosts for all of region contests and events in our new facility. The Fine Arts wings will include an auditorium and box office, separate areas for each Fine Arts division with offices and storage, restrooms and dressing rooms with showers for fine arts students. Celina High School provides a good example of this in their "main street" design. Fine arts and the auditorium are located on the far side of the building, opposite the gym and athletic facilities on the other end of "main street."

The AUDITORIUM in the new high school is a crucial component of our Fine Arts department. The auditorium should be built to the UIL minimum stage requirements for contests and performances.¹ This will provide a source of revenue for Melissa ISD through entry fees and rental income from community groups who lease this space. The auditorium should have exterior access so that the remainder of the school can be secured when it is unoccupied. The auditorium will be utilized by Melissa ISD for MHS school assemblies, band and choir concerts and contests, dance performances, and theatrical performances (including musicals and large scale productions). The auditorium can be built as a long-term facility that will meet the needs of Melissa ISD and our extended community for decades. Here are the crucial elements of the auditorium:

- **Box office:** There should also be a box office, similar to the one at Cardinal stadium.
- **Stage floor:** The stage floor should be paintable to provide for easy maintenance during high usage periods. Dimensions for the floor need to be 50' x 30', not including wing space.
- **Display cases:** The hallways outside of the auditorium should include display cases where awards and promotion for upcoming events can be displayed. These would be refreshed periodically by Fine Arts staff.
- **Tall and wide staging:** Ceiling heights throughout the staging area should be at least 12 feet high. This will accommodate theatre sets and lighting, choral risers and acoustic shells, percussion instruments and more. In our facility at Melissa High School, our Fine Arts programs are not able to correctly use choral risers or to develop large stage pieces for productions.
- **Tall and wide doorways without center bars:** Doorways into the staging area of the auditorium should be at least 12 feet high and 12 feet wide without a center support bar. In our facility at Melissa High School, our Fine Arts programs have struggled to utilize large instruments or sets because they cannot safely be moved into the staging area.
- **Adequate seating:** The auditorium should be built with seating space that will accommodate the entire MHS student body at fullest capacity. This space can be used for school meetings with all students in one setting. We currently hold these types of meetings in the MHS gym where students are seated on opposite sides of the room and acoustics can be challenging. Adequate seating in our new auditorium eliminates this problem.
- **Lighting and acoustical requirements.** There needs to be theatrical lighting sufficient to light a minimum of a 15' area. The sound booth would have an in-house amplification system and mixer control board which would be locked to restrict public access. The auditorium should also include a wireless clear-com intercom system and a fly system.
- **Orchestra pit:** This space would open the opportunity for Melissa ISD students, and members of the community, to utilize the auditorium for musical theatre. The pit should be built to accommodate a minimum of 20 musicians with handicap accessible entrances that do not impede the use of the space.
- **Piano storage:** The auditorium should be equipped with a grand piano and an independent storage space. Tall and wide doors, without center bars, should provide access for a grand piano from the storage space to the choir room and to the auditorium.

¹ Currently, only Princeton ISD has an auditorium that meets these requirements.

Our assessment group would like to propose that a **FINE ARTS LAB** be added to our Fine Arts department. This would be a classroom comprised of workstations with computers and keyboards. It would be utilized as a theory lab for band and choir classes, as a classroom for theatre and debate groups, and as the basis for computer graphics in the art department.

Proposed BAND facilities include full band practice space, a percussion room, an ensemble room, uniform storage, instrument storage, music storage, at least 4 practice rooms and 3 director offices. The current garage door to provide exterior access is important and should be replicated in the new facility. The band hall should be placed near the outside marching practice space. Here are the crucial elements in the band hall:

- **Interior and Exterior Space Requirements:** The band hall needs to be the approximate size of a full gym. This is double our existing space. The outside marching practice area should be 80 yards wide (from the 10 yard to 10 yard line) and 53 1/3 yards deep. Entrances to this space should be 12 feet tall and 12 feet wide with no center bars in doorways. There should also be an exterior garage door that allows a larger entry to this space. A new two-level tower needs to be purchase for marching band rehearsals.
- **Practice Rooms:** Four individual practice rooms with windows and acoustical treatment to be used for student practice or private lessons.
- **Ensemble room:** One room large enough to seat 20-30 students with smaller classes or ensemble rehearsals.
- **Percussion room:** One room large enough to accommodate mallet instruments, drumline rehearsals, and storage of percussion instruments.
- **Instrument storage:** Our current instrument storage room is designed well but needs to be much larger. We need adequate locker storage for at least 250 instruments. There is wasted space in the middle of the room where we might be able to decrease overall square footage while providing more space for instrument placement.
- **Uniform storage:** This room should be designed with hanging racks to accommodate both marching and concert band uniforms. There should also be shelves provided for hat boxes and other items. We will need the ability to hang 250 marching and 250 concert uniforms.
- **Workspace and music library:** Our current system for music filing is a good idea but is not wide enough to accommodate music storage boxes without damage to the boxes.
- **Director offices:** We currently need 3 director offices. We believe that this number of offices will continue to be adequate as the program grows to full potential.
- **Trailer storage:** In the development of the parking lots, spaces should be set aside for the band trailers.
- **Color guard room:** A room similar to the size of the percussion room needs to be set aside for uniform and prop storage. This room should include shelving and space to hang uniforms.
- **Storage:** We encourage architects and designers to think creatively about storage. Current MHS facilities have storage in hallways and classrooms. Storage spaces placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area.
- **Display shelves or cases:** These can be placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area, including trophy display and storage.

Proposed THEATRE/DEBATE facilities include a performance black box, 2 rehearsal black boxes, scene shop, restrooms with dressing rooms and 2 director offices. Our theatre department has plans to expand our current programming. In order to accomplish this vision, significant changes need to be made to our theatre facilities. Here are the crucial elements of theatre facilities:

- **Performance black box:** This black box gives a foundation for students in a small show setting. There should be seating for a small audience and this black box should be connected to the rehearsal black boxes. It should include wet and dry storage, lighting and a sound booth. In our current black box, electricity is not placed well to be prepared for productions. More input needs to come from theatre department during the design phase of these spaces.
- **Two rehearsal black boxes:** These black boxes will be used for smaller theatre and production classes. Like the performance black box, they should include or share wet and dry storage, and have lighting and sound equipment.
- **Scene shop:** Ideally, every student who works in theatre production could leave theatre production classes and grid a back drop for a professional production. These are engineering opportunities that are often underestimated in theatre programs. Melissa ISD facilities should include an indoor shop for scene construction. This includes space for woodworking, a paint shop, space to lay out and build backdrops. There should include an exterior garage door and be accessible through interior hallways to the auditorium. Proper ventilation should be considered in the design of the scene shop.
- **Scene storage:** This storage area needs to be large enough to store a large set piece like the UIL one act play set, as well as interior walls, staircases and other large items.
- **Costume storage:** This room should be designed with hanging racks to accommodate costumes from current and previous shows.
- **Director offices:** We currently need 2 director offices. We believe that this number of offices will continue to be adequate as the program grows to full potential.
- **Storage:** We encourage architects and designers to think creatively about storage. Current MHS facilities have storage in hallways and classrooms. Storage spaces placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area.
- **Display shelves or cases:** These can be placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area, including trophy display and storage.

Sound production classes can utilize these facilities. The scope of these classes may include band, choir, or theater students and can utilize black boxes and the auditorium for education and experience on audio-visual equipment.

Proposed CHOIR facilities include rehearsal spaces for full choir and for ensembles, storage for a grand piano, storage for uniform storage, sound equipment, and music, and 2 director offices. This is a program that we feel has significant facility requirements to provide for the full potential of the program. Our choir department has a vision to develop and add programs such as show choir. Here are the crucial elements of choir facilities:

- **Rehearsal Room Requirements:** We recommend that the choir rehearsal room be a minimum of 2000 square feet to accommodate 80-100 students (20-25 square foot per vocalist). This will be adequate space for the full ensemble size of the program which is necessary for full rehearsals. The rehearsal room should be equipped with sound system, including recording capabilities and audio-visual equipment.
- **Practice Rooms:** Three to four individual practice rooms with windows and acoustical treatment to be used for student practice or private lessons. Each of these rooms will need to be equipped with a piano.
- **Ensemble room:** One room large enough to seat 20 students with smaller classes or ensemble rehearsals. This room would ideally hold one section of the choir (approximately 20 students as our program grows). This room will need to be equipped with a piano.
- **Uniform storage:** This room should be designed with hanging racks to accommodate both choir concert uniforms and costumes for spring pop shows, madrigal dinner or show choir. There should be space for 200 uniforms, including shelving for shoes, show props, and other uniform items.
- **Workspace and music library:** Our current system for music filing is a good idea but is not wide enough to accommodate music storage boxes without damage to the boxes.
- **Director offices:** We will need 2 director offices. We believe that this number of offices will continue to be adequate as the program grows to full potential.
- **Storage room:** A large area is needed to store items including sound equipment and supplies for the choral department.
- **Storage:** We encourage architects and designers to think creatively about storage. Current MHS facilities have storage in hallways and classrooms. Storage spaces placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area.
- **Display shelves or cases:** These can be placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area, including trophy display and storage.

Proposed ART facilities include a minimum of two classrooms, art drying and storage areas, display areas, teacher offices, and storage. Our assessment group was surprised to discover that we currently have two art teachers teaching two different classes in the same space. The current solution is that we have an art class meeting in a hallway on a regular basis. This is an area that needs substantial investment in our new facility. We could expand our art programs to include ceramics, sculpture, photography, and more. Here are the crucial elements of art facilities:

- **Classrooms:** We propose a minimum of two classrooms that will accommodate 20-30 students in each room. These rooms may be placed adjoining to one another and share a work area with storage space, drying racks and a kiln. Exterior doors should be considered in these classrooms.
- **Artwork display areas:** These can be configured in hallways or in the art classrooms.
- **Teacher offices:** We currently need 2 teacher offices. We believe that this number of offices will continue to be adequate as the program grows to full potential.
- **Storage:** We encourage architects and designers to think creatively about storage. Current MHS facilities have storage in hallways and classrooms. Storage spaces placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area.
- **Display shelves or cases:** These can be placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area, including trophy display and storage.

Proposed DANCE/DRILL TEAM facilities include rehearsal space, storage, and a sponsor office. This is the only program in our Fine Arts scope that we feel needs to be added in the immediate future to provide for development of our students. These facilities may be set aside for dance/drill team but can also be used for show choir, color guard or winter guard, theatre rehearsals and more. Here are the crucial elements of our dance/drill team facilities:

- **Rehearsal space:** This space should be about the size of a half gym and would be more wide than deep. Mirrors and a ballet bar should run the width of the room. There should be a built in sound system to aid sponsors with rehearsals that include music.
- **Uniform storage:** Storage with hanging racks should be provided for cheerleader uniforms.
- **Sponsor office:** We need 1 sponsor office. We believe that this number of offices will continue to be adequate as the program grows to full potential.
- **Storage:** We encourage architects and designers to think creatively about storage. Current MHS facilities have storage in hallways and classrooms. Storage spaces placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area.
- **Display shelves or cases:** These can be placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area, including trophy display and storage.

Proposed CHEER facilities include cheerleader dressing rooms with lockers, uniform storage, makeup tables, and a sponsor office. We believe that this Fine Arts space may be best placed on the other end of “main street” so that there is easy access to the gym for practices and games. Here are the crucial elements of our cheer facilities:

- **Dressing room with makeup tables:** Cheerleaders should be provided with lockers to store their belongings during games and events. These dressing rooms should include restrooms and countertops with mirrors that are set aside for hair and make-up application.
- **Uniform storage:** Storage with hanging racks should be provided for cheerleader uniforms.
- **Supply storage:** Storage should be set aside for cheerleader megaphones, banners, and other supplies.
- **Sponsor office:** We need a large office with separate dressing room for two sponsors of this program. We believe that this number of offices will continue to be adequate as the program grows to full potential.
- **Storage:** We encourage architects and designers to think creatively about storage. Current MHS facilities have storage in hallways and classrooms. Storage spaces placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area.
- **Display shelves or cases:** These can be placed throughout the Fine Arts department and included in every program area, including trophy display and storage.

This substantial investment in the Melissa ISD Fine Arts Department will provide an immediate and lasting impact on our students and our community. Our teachers and students are currently losing instructional time to the setup facilities. This proposal outlines a plan that will maximize the use of ISD resources (both financial and personnel) by providing spaces that are designed to provide for every need within these programs.

Melissa ISD has taken a few significant steps in recent years to begin this advancement. The addition of a choir program has opened opportunities for students that will continue to enrich their development for years to come. The investment in a light board for our Melissa ISD theatre students had an immediate impact. For the first time, our theatre program place in the region competition after students had experience on this equipment.

Our core values of integrity, loyalty, honesty, humility and hope come to life in the proposal of facilities that provide for the expansion of our students’ fine arts experience. This proposal outlines facilities that will last over time to provide the greatest benefit to our students while giving them a vision for a brighter tomorrow.