Guidelines for transporting musical instruments on DASD buses

Student safety is our number one priority, therefore we have updated our guidelines for the transporting of musical instruments on school buses. All musical instruments transported in the passenger area on a school bus must be positioned in such a way that they do not block, interfere, or obstruct the aisle, stairwell, or emergency exits at any time. In addition, musical instruments cannot impinge or interfere with another child’s personal space while they are riding on a school bus.

If the seat(s) used to transport musical instruments are required for students, then the musical instrument(s) will not be allowed to be transported on the school bus under any condition.

1. The following large and bulky instruments shall not be allowed on a school bus at any time.

Large and bulky instruments are defined as those (including case) that exceed 37 inches in length, or exceed 16 inches in width. Instruments that fall into this category are:

- Tubas
- Drums (of any kind)
- String Basses
- Baritone Horns
- Baritone Saxophones
- Cellos
- Guitars
- Bass Guitars

2. Moderately sized instruments (length between 24 and 36 inches, or width between 12 and 15 inches) may be transported on a school bus but must be held between a student’s legs, or on their lap. In addition, all instruments must be carried in a case. If the bus has an open seat (at full ridership) then the student can place or position the instrument in the seat next to the window. Only the first six rows may be used for this purpose. Examples of moderately sized instruments are:

- Violins/Violas
- French Horns
- Tenor Saxophones
- Trombones
- Bass Clarinets
3. The following small musical instruments may be carried in the seat with the student. These instruments including cases must be less than 24 inches in length and less than 12 inches in width. Examples are:

- Flutes
- Oboes
- Clarinets
- Alto Saxophones
- Trumpets
- Piccolos

Any instrument placed on the floor must be against the outside (window) wall, as no student should have to climb over an instrument to exit the bus in the event of an emergency. Leg spacing on buses range from 7 inches to 12 inches so instruments must either fit on the students lap or within the leg space of each seat. Instruments on a school bus may not exceed 36 inches in length of 15 inches in width (which includes the case). No exceptions will be allowed.

Parents should be aware that while buses may have room during the morning run, the evening runs tend to be more crowded. Please take this into consideration as students may not be allowed to take musical instruments home when/if buses are crowded.