

COWICHAN VALLEY 79 SCHOOL DISTRICT

In accordance with MVA Regulations, School Bus Drivers CANNOT transport items other than a regular backpack which can fit comfortably on the student's lap without extending into another student's space (or into the aisle, or in front of the student).

The following items **CANNOT** be safely transported on a school bus:

- **Guitars and Trombones**
 - **Tenor and Bari Saxophones**
 - **Hockey Sticks (grass, field, or ice)**
 - **Lacrosse Sticks**
 - **Baseball Bats**
 - **Skateboards**
 - **Drums, Cellos and other large instruments**
 - **Large school projects that will not fit on the student's lap**
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Items which **CAN** be transported:

- **A regular size back pack that sits comfortably on the student's lap**
- **Small band instruments such as flutes, trumpets—anything up to the size of (and including) an alto saxophone**
- **Balls that are contained within the student's backpack**

School buses are engineered to provide the highest level of protection for a large group of passengers. They are not designed to safely carry cargo along with the passengers. The compromise is the backpack, with all items stored securely inside, which can sit comfortably on a student's lap. Hard items sticking out of the backpack and/or strapped to the outside of the backpack compromise the safety of compartmentalization.

Under the compartmentalization concept, seat backs in school buses are made higher, wider, and thicker than before—and they are closer together. All metal surfaces are covered with energy-absorbing padding. Today's bus seats must also have a steel inner structure that bends forward to help absorb energy when a child is thrown against it—it must give just enough to absorb the weight of the child in the seat behind. This protects the child in the event of a sudden stop or accident. Anything that is stored in front of a student's face or between their legs, prevents them from receiving the protection of the padded surface in front of them. Anything stored on the floor becomes a hazard that they, or other students, would trip on.

We in the transportation department have a responsibility to transport students safely to school. Allowing unsafe, insecure cargo is neglecting that responsibility. We appreciate your efforts and your support in maintaining a safe environment for your child's ride to school.
