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Red Deer Catholic Regional Division

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Red Deer Catholic Staff and Parents,

Red Deer Catholic Student Transportation is committed to ensuring that our students are safely and efficiently transported to and from school each day. Extra items such as sports equipment, band instruments or projects often cannot be safely transported on our school buses. Please share the following information regarding the safe transportation of cargo (which includes large projects, musical instruments and sports equipment) on the school buses with your teachers and parents. I have found that it is important for everyone to understand these guidelines early in the school year.

Red Deer Catholic Student Transportation is limited on what may be transported on our school buses as per the Alberta Traffic Safety Act (see below).

Province of Alberta *TRAFFIC SAFETY ACT Vehicle Equipment Regulation (AR 122/2009)* regarding transportation of goods, a bus shall not be operated unless the luggage, cargo, goods, equipment and tools that are carried on the bus are carried in an adequate place provided for the carrying of those items.

- the place provided for carrying luggage, cargo, goods, equipment or tools must not interfere with free access to the exits of the bus;
- be constructed so as to prevent the luggage, cargo, goods, equipment or tools from falling on or against a passenger;
- in the case of passenger luggage, protect the luggage from dust and moisture.

Students shall: Only bring items that can be held on their lap while enclosed inside a standard student backpack, or securely underneath the seat and does not stick out in any way.

What this means is that sports and musical instruments may be transported if they fit inside the student's backpack (e.g. flute, clarinet). Students may not hold the cases in their lap or on the seat beside them. Musical instruments that may not be transported are, tubas, French horns, guitars, saxophones, and trombones. Sports equipment like skis or hockey and lacrosse sticks may not be transported on the school bus. Balls, skates etc. may only be transported if they can be secured in the student's backpack. Large or fragile projects also may not be safely transported on the bus.

Charter buses that are hired may transport the above-mentioned items as long as the items are securely positioned in the seats and do not extend the height of the seat backs. Emergency exits and windows must be clear and have access. No Student/ Staff shall occupy the seat across from the secured items in transport.