

HOPKINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUS CONDUCT RULES and CARRY-ON ITEMS

We are pleased to offer school bus privileges to Hopkinton students. Students should understand that the school bus is an extension of the school, and rules regarding behavior are the same as in the school. School bus safety is a primary concern of the Hopkinton Public Schools, and we reserve the right to take steps necessary to maintain a high level of safety.

The right of a student to school bus transportation is a qualified right, dependent on good behavior. In cases where a student seriously or continuously misbehaves, the principal or designee of the student's school will notify parents. The principal may revoke the bus pass if such action is necessary for the safety and well being of other students. In cases where the driver assesses that a student's conduct jeopardizes the safety and well being of other students, that student may be immediately assigned to a seat at the front of the bus for the remainder of that bus ride. School Administration will investigate all bus conduct reports, alleged infractions, and assign appropriate consequences.

All eligible and fee-based students will be issued a bus pass which they should be prepared to show to the driver each day upon entering the bus. The pass entitles students to a school bus ride to and from school. If a student loses a bus pass, a duplicate pass may be obtained from the Transportation Office for a \$5.00 fee (check or money order).

A student who pays a fee for transportation and whose riding privileges are suspended because of violation of these rules will not receive a fee refund.

STUDENTS WHO RIDE A SCHOOL BUS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. A student who allows another student to use his/her bus pass or sells his/her bus pass may have his/her bus pass privileges revoked.
2. Students shall stand on the sidewalk or another designated place while waiting for the school bus. They shall respect other people's property and respect the right of other people to pass on the sidewalk.
3. Students should not annoy the driver or distract him/her attention from driving. The bus driver has full authority and responsibility for control of student conduct while they are on the bus. Drivers should be treated with courtesy and respect.
4. Students shall never approach a school bus until it has completely stopped and the door is opened. In boarding the bus, they should proceed in an orderly, single file line.
5. Younger students should board and exit first from the bus.
6. In crossing the roadway after exiting from the bus, students should cross only in front of the bus when the blinking lights are on and the stop sign is extended. Students should also pass at least 10 feet in front of the bus and look for traffic in both directions before crossing the roadway.
7. Never run beside a bus, chase after a bus, or pick up anything that has fallen near the wheels of a bus.
8. Students shall not open windows without permission. Do not throw anything out of the window. Do not put your hands, arms or any parts of your body out of the window at anytime.
9. Do not open the rear exit emergency door unless there is an emergency or the driver directs you.
10. There shall be no pushing or striking others, general fooling around, or use of profane or abusive language.
11. Students may not vandalize, destroy, or deface any part of the bus.

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12. Students who witness the destruction of property have a responsibility to report such misbehavior to the driver or school authorities.
13. There is no smoking (including E-cigarettes), eating, or drinking on the school bus.
14. Under no circumstances should drugs, alcohol or related items, firearms, explosives, knives, or weapons be brought onto a school bus.
15. Students may not bring open food items of any kind on the bus. All food items must be kept in a sealed container.
16. School Bus Carry-On Items: The interior of the bus must be free of objects that can cause injury. Objects must be secured, and the aisles, foot wells, and emergency exits must be kept open and free of blockage. The following must be adhered to at all times:
 - Carry on items must be carried/held in a student's lap. Small items less than 10 inches in width and height may be placed under the student's seat on the floor.
 - Items are not to be placed in the aisles, or at the student's feet in the foot wells, as they block ready exit (*exception- see Sports Equipment chart below).
 - Items are not to be placed in empty seats as they can become projectiles upon impact or abrupt emergency stops.
 - Nothing is to be placed in the driver's compartment, doorway or aisle area.

The following is a list of carry-on items that are allowed and not allowed on the school bus:

General:

<u>ALLOWED ON BUS</u>	<u>NOT ALLOWED ON BUS</u>
Small projects that can be held on student's lap	Large projects, tri-fold posters, poster boards, over 30 inches in height and/or 14 inches in width
	Projects made with any type of food
	Breakable objects

Instruments:

<u>ALLOWED ON BUS</u>	<u>NOT ALLOWED ON BUS</u>
Violin	Cello
Viola	Bass
Piccolo	Bass Clarinet
Flute	Baritone
Clarinet	Euphonium
Oboe	Tuba
French Horn in soft case	French Horn in hard case
Trumpet	
Bassoon	Baritone Saxophone
Alto Saxophone	Tenor Saxophone
Soprano Saxophone	Trombone
Mini Baritone	Any type of Keyboard
Xylophone- under 30 inches	Xylophone-over 30 inches
Drum practice pad	Drums/cymbals-set
Pbone (beginner trombone)	Any type of Guitar
Any instrument in a case that the student can hold securely on his/her lap <u>under</u> 30 inches in height and 14 inches in width. The student's backpack must be able to fit securely <u>under</u> the student's seat	Any instrument in a case that the student cannot hold securely on his/her lap and/or is over 30 inches in height and/or 14 inches in width.

Reviewed and approved by Craig Hay, Music Director

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Sports Equipment:

ALLOWED ON BUS	NOT ALLOWED ON BUS
Baseball bats (2) in bag at HS/MS level	More than 2 baseball bats at HS/MS level Baseball bat(s) of any number at Elementary Schools
Basketball (1)	More than one basketball
Soccer ball (1)	More than one soccer ball
Volleyball (1)	More than one volleyball
Football (1)	More than one football
Tennis rackets (2) in case at HS/MS level	More than two tennis rackets at the HS/MS level Tennis racket(s) of any number at the Elementary level
Ice skates in a case (1 pair)	More than 1 pair of Ice skates in cases
	Skis
Ski boots in a case (1 pair) if under 30x14 inches	Ski boots in a case over 30x14 inches or multiple pairs
Skate board 32 inches & under (must be placed under the student's bus seat)	Skateboard over 32 inches
	Golf clubs
*Lacrosse stick (1) at the HS/MS level	More than one Lacrosse stick at the HS/MS level Lacrosse stick(s) of any number at Elementary Schools
*Ice hockey stick (1) at the HS/MS level	More than one ice hockey stick at HS/MS level Ice hockey stick(s) of any number at Elementary Schools
*Field Hockey stick (1) at the HS/MS level	More than one field hockey stick at HS/MS level Field hockey stick(s) of any number at Elementary Schools
Helmet (1)	More than one helmet
Small sports bag that a student can hold securely on his/her lap under 30x14 inches	Equipment bag that the student cannot hold securely on his/her lap and/or exceeds 30x14 inches
*Lacrosse, ice hockey & field hockey sticks must be held securely between the students legs with the net/play end at the floor so the narrow, handle end is at the top which will not obstruct the bus driver's view	Multiple items of equipment that the student cannot hold securely on his/her lap

Reviewed and approved by Deirdre King, Athletic Director

Superintendent of Hopkinton Public Schools
HPS Transportation Department
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