Safety in the Instrumental Music Room

Acoustics
• Band Room Specifications state:
  o Music areas must be acoustically designed so pitches and tones are clear and balanced.
  o Music rooms should be acoustically separated by walls or distance from those school areas where sounds will cause annoyance an distraction
  o Special attention should be given to acoustic design throughout all facilities for the performing arts
    ▪ Size/Capacity = 2200 SF – Maximum 125 students per class
    ▪ Spatial characteristics – rectangular, not square – for proper resonance provide 10-15 feet from front of class group to front of room
    ▪ Finishes – wall – CMU acoustical treatment – floor VCT in light colors
    ▪ Ceiling – 20’0” high with acoustical treatment

• Programmatic Offerings
  o Concert Band/Wind Ensemble
  o Jazz Band with limited amplification
  o Marching Band with limited percussion

• The instrumental music rooms have been designed to accommodate a standard music program. Decibel meters are available for your use (contact Arts Education) to self-monitor the volume in your room.
• Sound should never peak above 115 dbm
• Time Weighted Average over an 8 hour period should not exceed 85 dbm
• As music instructor, you have the ability (and responsibility) to control the overall volume of music. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the arts education office for a comprehensive acoustic survey.

For additional information:
Teaching Music, April 1999 - “You Heard What?”
Hear the Music: Hearing Loss Prevention for Musicians, 2001