

Lab Safety Contract

Science is a hands-on class. Safety in the science classroom is the #1 priority for students, teachers and parents. To ensure a safe science classroom, a list of safety guidelines has been incorporated in this student safety contract. Additional safety instructions will be given before each lab.

Conduct In the Laboratory

- 1. I will conduct myself in a responsible manner at all times.** Horseplay, fooling around, or pranks can be dangerous and are prohibited. Do not wander around the room, distract other students, or interfere with the work of others. Never run, hurry, or push someone in the lab.
- 2. I will perform only those experiments authorized by the teacher.** Do not try your own experiments or try variations of the experiment you are doing. Do not repeat experiments we do in class at home without permission of both teacher and parents.
- 3. I will read and follow all directions exactly as they are written.** If in doubt, ask your teacher for help!
- 4. I will not touch anything in the science classroom until instructed to do so.** Any materials, chemicals, and lab equipment on lab trays or counters should be left alone until you are instructed to use it.
- 5. I will not go into storage rooms, cabinets, and drawers.** Unless you are instructed to do so, stay out of these.
- 6. I will not use the computers without teacher permission.** The teacher needs to know how the computers are being used and what students are doing on them. Students need to get permission to use the internet, check grades, or use the electronic microscope.
- 7. I will work cooperatively with my lab partners to help them and myself learn as much as possible from the lab activities.** Treat the people in your lab group with respect.
- 8. I will use all lab equipment and materials only in ways appropriate for the success of my lab activities.** All students are financially responsible for lost or damaged equipment due to negligent or irresponsible behavior or failing to follow directions.
- 9. I will not eat or drink food in the lab.** Eating, drinking, and chewing gum are not allowed.

Clothing/Lab Area

- 10. I will always wear safety goggles whenever I am working with chemicals or other substances that might get into my eyes.** Keep safety glasses on during the entire lab and for clean-up. At the end of the lab return the safety glasses to the sterilizing cabinet.
- 11. I will try to avoid wearing contact lenses when doing experiments with chemicals.** It is almost impossible to remove contacts after chemicals have been splashed into the eyes. Chemicals trapped under contacts will damage the eye even more than normal. The plastic used for some types of contact lenses is permeable to vapors found in the laboratory. If these vapors are trapped behind the lens, extensive irritation may occur. For these reasons it is not recommended that students wear contact lenses during labs if at all possible.
- 12. I will dress properly for the lab.** Long hair must be tied back. Dangling jewelry, loose or baggy clothing, and sleeves below the elbows can all present safety problems.
- 13. I will keep my lab area clean and neat.** Keep aisles clear and free of book bags. Push chairs in when not in use. Keep equipment and chemicals away from the edge of the table or counter so they are not knocked off. Always clean up your work area and equipment after an experiment is completed. Equipment must be returned to its proper place.

14. I will not take anything from the lab unless it is checked out in writing by the instructor.

Lab Procedure Safety

15. I will learn where the safety equipment is located (fire extinguishers, eye wash, first aid kit, fire blanket, phone) and learn how to use it. Know where exits are located and what to do in case of a fire drill. Students should be familiar with safety equipment. Know how to use the classroom phone to call for help.

16. I will never reach across a flame. You can get burned or catch your clothing on fire. Keep your work area clean and keep all materials (clothing, hair, papers, etc.) away from flames or other heat sources. Burning hair smells ("ewww") and it feels bad ("ouch"), so long hair needs to be tied back. Bulky jackets and sweatshirts can also get into flames and chemicals.

17. I will never look directly into a test tube when mixing or heating chemicals. Chemicals can spray out or spit out at you during reactions or when heated. Always point a test tube away from you and others when heating it over a flame or other heat source.

18. I will never smell a chemical directly from the container. I will never taste or smell a chemical unless I am instructed by my teacher to do so. Wave your hand over the opening of the container and "waft" the fumes toward your nose. This way you are able to smell a less concentrated amount and not burn your nose or throat.

19. I will never mix chemicals (or perform tests or my own experiment) without my teacher's permission. Certain chemicals can produce toxic fumes if mixed or cause dangerous exothermic reactions. A new, dangerous toxic chemical could be produced that would put you and your lab group in danger.

20. I will help avoid spills by keeping lids on bottles and containers when not in use.

21. I will never use broken or chipped glassware. Broken glassware can be weakened and may shatter or break when heated. You also could get cut on a chipped piece of glass. If glassware breaks, stop and report it immediately. Do not move until your teacher says it is safe to do so. There may be small slivers of glass that you do not notice. Your teacher will collect the broken glass, not you. More minor cuts occur after this type of accident than during it. Chemical spills are often involved with glass breakage.

22. I will wash my hands after experiments that use chemicals. You could be unaware that you have chemicals on your hands after a lab. Rubbing your eyes could get the chemicals in your eyes. Touching food could get the chemicals inside your body.

23. I will discard in the sinks only those liquids or solids indicated by my teacher. Some chemicals are not allowed to be poured down the drain. They can corrode the pipes and hurt the environment. Solids can block up the drains and react with other chemicals.

In Case of an Accident

24. I will immediately notify my teacher if I get a cut or have another injury while performing an experiment. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) or unsafe condition to the teacher immediately, no matter how trivial it may appear. Notify the teacher if any chemical gets on your skin or clothing to find out what to do to clean it off. In general, if chemicals splash on skin or clothing rinse immediately with large quantities of water.

Student: I have reviewed and understand the safety rules above. I agree to abide by all conditions and directions and safety rules given by the instructor.

Parent or Guardian: I have reviewed these rules and agree to support my child and the teacher in maintaining a safe lab environment.

Student Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date _____