

Student Laboratory Safety Agreement

Purpose:

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 rules has been developed and provided to you in this student safety agreement. These rules must be followed at all times. Two copies of the agreement are provided. One copy must be signed by both you and a parent or guardian, and returned to your instructor before you can participate in the lab. The second copy is to be kept in your science notebook as a constant reminder of the safety rules.

General Guidelines:

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the lab. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the instructor before proceeding.
2. No student may work in the lab without an instructor present.
3. Never touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials until you are instructed to do so.
4. No food, beverages, gum or candy are allowed in the lab.
5. Unauthorized experiments are prohibited.
6. Work areas should be kept clean and neat at all times. Bring only your lab instructions, worksheets, lab notebooks, reference materials and/or reports to the work area. Other materials (books, purses, backpacks, etc.) must be stored away from the work area.
7. Know the locations and operating procedures of all safety equipment including the eyewash station, safety shower, fire extinguisher, and fire blanket. Know where the fire alarm and exits are located.
8. Dispose of all chemical waste properly. Never mix chemicals in sink drains. Sinks are to be used only for water and those solutions designated by the instructor. Solid chemicals, metals, matches, filter paper, and all other insoluble materials are to be disposed of in the proper waste containers.
9. Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or preserved specimens. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing all experiments. Clean and wipe dry all work surfaces and materials at the end of the experiment.
10. You will be assigned a laboratory station at which to work. You may not wander around the lab.
11. If there is a fire drill during your lab period turn off all gas valves and electrical equipment before leaving.
12. Handle all living organisms used in a lab activity in a humane manner. Preserved biological materials are to be treated as instructed by your teacher and disposed of properly.
13. When using knives and other sharp instruments, always carry with tips and points pointing down and away. Always cut away from your body. Never try to catch falling sharp instruments. Grasp sharp instruments only by the handles.

Clothing:

14. Lab goggles **MUST**, without exception, be worn any time chemicals, heat, or glassware are used.
15. Dress for safety when working in the lab. Long hair must be tied back and dangling jewelry and loose or baggy clothing must be secured. Shoes must completely cover the foot. **NO SANDALS ALLOWED.**

Accidents and Injuries:

16. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) or injury (cut, burn, etc.) to the instructor immediately.
17. If a chemical should splash in your eye(s) or on your skin, immediately flush with running water from the eyewash station for at least 20 minutes. Notify your teacher immediately.

Handling Chemicals:

18. All chemicals in the lab are to be considered dangerous. Do not touch or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so. The proper technique for smelling chemical fumes will be demonstrated to you. **NEVER** taste any chemicals.
19. Check the label on chemical bottles before removing any of the contents. Take only as much chemical as you need. Never return unused chemical to their original containers.
20. When transferring reagents from one container to another, hold the containers away from your body.
21. Acids must be handled with extreme care. Always add acid to water slowly and carefully swirl or stir the solution.
22. Never remove chemicals or other materials from the lab area.

Handling Glassware and Equipment:

23. Carry glass tubing, especially long pieces, in a vertical position to minimize the likelihood of breakage and injury.
24. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Notify your teacher immediately.
25. When removing an electrical plug from its socket, grasp the plug, not the electrical cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, plug, or outlet.
26. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped or cracked glassware. Never use dirty glassware. Notify your instructor of any defects.
27. Report damaged electrical equipment immediately to your instructor. Look for things such as frayed cords, exposed wires, and loose connections. Do not use damaged electrical equipment.
28. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the instructor for help.
29. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water; it may shatter.

Heating Substances:

30. Exercise extreme caution when using a gas burner. Take care that hair, clothing and hands are a safe distance from the flame at all times. Do not put any substance into the flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Never reach over an exposed flame. Light gas burners only as instructed by the teacher.
31. Never leave a lit burner unattended. Never leave anything that is being heated or is visibly reacting unattended. Always turn the burner or hot plate off when not in use.
32. You will be instructed in the proper method of heating and boiling liquids in test tubes. Never point the open end of a test tube being heated at yourself or anyone else.
33. Heated metals and glass remain very hot for a long time. They should be set aside to cool and picked up with caution. Use tongs if necessary.
34. Never look into a container that is being heated.

Student Laboratory Safety Agreement

I, _____ (student's name) have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this agreement. I realize that I must obey these rules to insure my own safety, and that of my fellow students, instructors, and the lab facilities. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also closely follow oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. I am aware that any violation of this safety agreement that results in unsafe conduct in the lab or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the lab, detention, discipline referral, and/or a failing grade for the lab.

Student Signature

Date

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We feel that you should be informed regarding the school's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment. With the cooperation of the instructors, parents, and students, a safety instruction program can eliminate, prevent, and correct possible hazards. You should be aware of the safety instructions your son/daughter will receive before engaging in any laboratory work. Please read the previous list of safety rules. No student will be permitted to perform lab activities unless this agreement is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher.

My signature on this agreement indicates that I have read this Student Lab Safety Agreement. I realize that my son/daughter must obey these rules to insure their own safety, that of their fellow students, instructors and the lab facilities. I will help my child cooperate to the fullest extent with their instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will encourage my son/daughter to closely follow oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. Failure of my son/daughter to abide by the previous stated rules could result my son/daughter being removed from the lab, detention, discipline referral, losing lab privileges, and/or a failing grade for the lab.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date