

Lab Safety Guidelines

Science investigations should be fun, educational, and SAFE. The majority of lab accidents are caused by carelessness, lack of attention, and inappropriate behavior (goofing off). Participation in lab activities is a privilege which can be revoked at any time.



To participate in labs, you are expected to:

1. Know where the first aid kit and fire extinguisher are located. They are on the counter. The first aid kit is to the far right, and the fire extinguisher is to the far left.
2. Wear goggles when handling acids or bases, using an open flame, or performing any other activity that could harm the eyes. If a substance gets into your eyes or on your skin, wash thoroughly with water, and notify the teacher immediately.
3. Keep work areas free of all unnecessary books and papers.
4. Tie back long, loose hair and button or roll up loose sleeves when working with chemicals or near heat/flame.
5. Be cautious around electrical wiring. Make sure cords are placed so that no one will trip over them or accidentally pull the appliance over. Do not use equipment with frayed wires. When removing a plug from its outlet, grasp the plug, not the cord. Hands must be completely dry.
6. Examine all glassware before using. Never use cracked or chipped glassware. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water. It may break. If glass breaks, notify the teacher immediately. The teacher must supervise as you clean up broken glass. Never use bare hands to clean up glassware. Use a brush and dustpan.
7. Use knives, razor blades, scalpels, and other sharp instruments with care. Carry them with tips pointed down and away from your body. Always cut AWAY from yourself.
8. Notify the teacher immediately if someone is cut, even for minor wounds. DO NOT touch anyone else's blood or body fluids!
9. Do not get into any lab drawers or cabinets without the teacher's permission. If lab equipment is already set up, do not approach until instructed to do so.
10. Do not eat, drink, or chew gum during a lab!
11. Do not remove any equipment or materials from the science lab room without permission. This is called stealing!
12. Never leave a heated hot plate unattended. Turn it off and unplug it as soon as you are finished using the hot plate.

Lab Safety Contract

I agree to:

- Act responsibly at all times in the lab.
- Follow all instructions given, orally and in writing.
- Ask questions if I do not understand the instructions.
- Perform only those activities assigned by my teacher.
- Protect my eyes, face, hands, and body by wearing proper protective equipment as instructed.
- Notify my teacher immediately on an emergency or injury, no matter how trivial it may seem.
- Never eat or drink in lab unless instructed by my teacher.
- Access lab supplies only when instructed to do so.
- Follow all safety guidelines given by the teacher.

I have read and understand each of the statements in the Lab Safety Guidelines and the Lab Safety Contract. I understand that if I do not abide by this Lab Safety Contract, I can be prohibited from participating in labs. I also understand that my parents/guardians may be contacted if I behave inappropriately and/or hazardously during labs.

And I understand that labs are an enjoyable way to learn! I will do my best to insure cooperative and safe behavior during all labs.

Student Signature

Date

I understand the expectations for my student's conduct during science labs, and support the appropriate behavior of my student.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date