

Lab Safety Agreement

Purpose

Science class involves hands-on laboratory activities as often as possible to help students reach a better understanding of the topics being studied. Some labs will involve potentially hazardous chemicals and materials (potentially hazardous only if used inappropriately.) There is no place in science class for unsafe use of materials. We do not want you to hurt yourself or anyone else by carelessness. Thus, you will need to either be safe or will sit out and take a zero on the lab. To help you to be safe, we will discuss this lab safety contract. It contains safety guidelines to help you make informed decisions about your behavior in science labs. Please read this contract carefully, have your parents read it, and then both you and your parent(s) must sign it and return it to me. *Only after your science teacher has your signed copy of this agreement will you be able to participate in any lab activities in this class.* If needed, one or more students may need to go over the lab safety rules at different times during the year if those students are choosing to act in an unsafe manner during labs.

General guidelines

1. Conduct yourself responsibly at all times.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. Ask questions if you do not understand.
3. Do not touch any equipment or materials before instructed to do so.
4. NO FOOD (including gum) IN THE LAB!!!
5. Start the lab only after the teacher gives the go-ahead.
6. Always read over the lab directions before you perform the lab.
7. Keep your work area neat and clean (just bring lab sheet + writing utensil to lab table).
8. Cover any liquid-filled containers to avoid spills.
9. Know the location and operation of all safety equipment (fire extinguisher, fire blanket, eye wash, fire exit).
10. Do not run, shout, or throw things in the lab.
11. Notify me if you notice any unsafe conditions in the classroom.
12. Dispose of all chemicals properly. I will instruct you about how to dispose of specific chemicals.
13. Keep your hands away from your face while doing labs. Wash your hands after the clean-up is complete.
14. Rinse out all glassware and leave it to dry in the designated locations.
15. Stay at your assigned lab table during labs.
16. Carry sharps appropriately; tips down and away.

Accidents

1. Immediately report ALL injuries, no matter how minor, to the teacher.
2. Use the eyewash or shower if you are splashed with a chemical. Always assume that the chemicals are hazardous. You or your lab partner(s) should let the teacher know what was splashed and where.
3. Never handle broken glass. If a piece of glassware breaks, notify the teacher immediately.

Clothing

1. Safety goggles / glasses will be worn when working with dangerous chemicals or with a flame.
2. Close-toed shoes (no flip-flops) should be worn on lab days involving chemicals.
3. Tie long hair behind your head and avoid wearing baggy sleeves when using chemicals or a flame.

Handling Chemicals

1. Consider all lab chemicals to be hazardous.
2. Double check the label before using a chemical
3. Take only the amount of chemical you will use.
4. Keep chemicals away from the mouth, nose, and eyes.
5. Always hold chemical bottles with two hands when transporting them.

Heating Substances

1. Use caution when heating something with a Bunsen burner.
2. Never look into a container that is being heated. Point the open end of the test tube away from all people.

Agreement

Student

I, _____, have read and understand the guidelines listed in the Lab Safety Agreement. I promise to follow these guidelines. I understand that failure to follow these or other verbal guidelines may result in not participating in the lab and earning a zero on it.

Signature

Date

Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

I _____, have read and understand the guidelines listed in the Lab Safety Agreement. I understand that my child is expected to follow these guidelines. I also understand the consequences of my child's failure to abide by these guidelines.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

This safety contract was adapted from http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/mjvl/lazaroff/lab_safety_agreement.doc