

# Science Classroom & Lab Safety Contract

Science is a hands-on laboratory class. Students will be doing laboratory activities that may require the use of chemicals, laboratory equipment, and other items which, if used incorrectly, can be hazardous. Safety in the science classroom is the number one 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 contract. These rules must be followed at all times. The student and a parent/guardian **must sign both copies**, keeping one and returning the second to the teacher. Please read the entire contract before you sign. A student's participation in science labs will be restricted until her/his contract is signed and given to the teacher. Parents and students can refer to these copies on this website, or they can request an additional hard copy.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ASK YOUR TEACHER BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTIVITY
3. Never work alone in the laboratory. No student may work in the science classroom without the presence of the teacher.
4. When first entering a science room, do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials in the laboratory area until you are instructed to do so.
5. Perform only those experiments authorized by your teacher. Carefully follow all instructions, both written and oral. Unauthorized experiments are not allowed.
6. **Do not eat food, drink beverages, or chew gum in the laboratory.** Do not use laboratory glassware as containers for food or beverages.
7. Be prepared for your work in the laboratory. Read all procedures thoroughly before entering the laboratory. Never fool around in the laboratory. **Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks are dangerous and prohibited.**
8. Always work in a well-ventilated area.
9. Observe good housekeeping practices. **Work areas should be kept clean and tidy at all times.**
10. Be alert and proceed with caution at all times in the laboratory. Notify the teacher immediately of any unsafe conditions you observe.
11. Dispose of all chemical waste properly. Never mix chemicals in sink drains. Sinks are to be used only for water. Check with your teacher for disposal of chemicals and solutions.
12. Labels and equipment instructions must be read carefully before use. Set up and use the equipment as directed by your teacher.
13. Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth, and body while using chemicals or lab equipment. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing all experiments.
14. Experiments must be personally monitored at all times. Do not wander around the room, distract other students, startle other students or interfere with the laboratory experiments of others.
15. Know the locations and operating procedures of all safety equipment, including: first aid kit(s) and fire extinguisher. Know where the fire alarm and the exits are located.
16. Know what to do if there is a fire drill during a laboratory period; containers must be closed, and any electrical equipment turned off.

## CLOTHING

17. Any time chemicals, heat, or glassware are used, students will wear safety goggles. **NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!**
18. Dress properly during a laboratory activity. Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing are a hazard in the laboratory. Long hair must be tied back, and dangling jewelry and baggy clothing must be secured.

## ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES

19. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) or injury (cut, burn, etc.) to the teacher immediately, no matter how trivial it seems. Do not panic.
20. If you or your lab partner is hurt, immediately (and loudly) yell out the teacher's name to get the teacher's attention. Do not panic.

21. If a chemical should splash in your eye(s) or on your skin, immediately flush with running water for at least 20 minutes. Immediately (and loudly) yell out the teacher's name to get the teacher's attention.

### HANDLING CHEMICALS

22. All chemicals in the laboratory are to be considered dangerous. Avoid handling chemicals with fingers. Always use a tweezers. When making an observation, keep at least one foot away from the specimen. **Do not taste or smell any chemicals.**

23. Check the label on all chemical bottles twice before removing any of the contents. Take only as much chemical as you need.

24. **Never** return unused chemicals to their original container.

25. **Never** remove chemicals or other materials from the laboratory area.

### HANDLING GLASSWARE AND EQUIPMENT

26. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Use a brush and dustpan to clean up broken glass. Place broken glass in the designated glass disposal container.

27. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped, cracked, or dirty glassware.

28. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, **ASK THE TEACHER FOR HELP!**

29. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water. The glassware may shatter.

### HEATING SUBSTANCES

30. Do not operate a hot plate by yourself. Take care that hair, clothing, and hands are a safe distance from the hot plate at all times. Use of hot plate is only allowed in the presence of the teacher.

31. Heated glassware remains very hot for a long time. They should be set aside in a designated place to cool, and picked up with caution. Use tongs or heat protective gloves if necessary.

32. **Never** look into a container that is being heated.

33. Do not place hot apparatus directly on the laboratory desk. Always use an insulated pad. Allow plenty of time for hot apparatus to cool before touching it.

### QUESTIONS (answers are confidential)

36. Do you wear contact lenses? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

37. Are you color blind? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

38. Do you have allergies? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please list specific allergies

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### AGREEMENT

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

Student signature

Date

Signature - Parent/Guardian

Date