

Mrs. Cronin's 8th Grade Lab Safety Contract

Purpose

Science includes hands-on laboratory experiments which may have potential hazards. To ensure a safe classroom, a list of rules has been developed and is hence forth referred to as the Lab Safety Contract. These rules must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity. No science student will be allowed to participate in science activities until this Lab Safety Contract has been signed by both the student and a parent or guardian. In addition, students must pass a safety test with a score of 90% or above. This signed contract must be on file with Mrs. Cronin before students will be allowed to participate in labs. Students who do not follow safety rules in the lab will not be permitted to participate (no warnings will be given) and will be asked to leave the laboratory/classroom.

Safety Rules

General Guidelines:

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory/science room. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks will not be tolerated.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. Ask your teacher questions if you do not understand the instructions, before proceeding with the activity.
3. Never work alone in the laboratory. No student may work in the laboratory/science room without the presence of the teacher.
4. Do not touch any equipment, supplies, or other materials in the laboratory/science room without permission from your teacher and until being instructed to do so.
5. Perform only authorized and approved experiments.
6. Never open storage cabinets or enter the prep/storage room without permission from your teacher.
7. Do not remove chemicals, equipment, or supplies from the laboratory/science room without permission from your teacher.
8. Learn where the safety equipment is located and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.
9. Always work in a well-ventilated area.
10. Keep your work area and the laboratory/science room neat and clean. Bring only your laboratory instructions, worksheets, and writing instruments to the work area.
11. Never eat, drink, chew gum, or taste anything in the laboratory/science room. Do not use laboratory glassware as containers for food or beverages.
12. Keep hands away from face, eyes, and mouth while using science materials or when working with chemicals.

Please sign and return this safety contract. Please do not remove any pages and return stapled.

13. Clean all work areas and equipment at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
14. Follow your teacher's instructions to dispose of any waste materials generated in an experiment.
15. Wash your hands with soap and water before leaving the laboratory.

Proper Attire:

1. Dress properly: Long hair must be tied back, no dangling jewelry, and no loose or baggy clothing. Sandals are not allowed on lab days. Students must wear closed toed, closed back shoes.
2. Wear personal protective equipment (aprons and safety goggles) when instructed. Never remove safety goggles during an experiment. There will be no exceptions to this rule!

Working with Chemicals

1. Consider all chemicals used in the science room to be dangerous. Do not touch or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
2. Do not ever use your mouth to pull liquid into a pipette. Mouth pipetting could lead to exposure to chemicals and possible poisoning.
3. Check the label on all chemical bottles twice before removing any of the contents. Take only as much chemical as you need.
4. Never return unused chemicals to their original container.
5. Never remove chemicals or other materials from the laboratory area.

Working with Sharps, Glassware, Heat, or Other Equipment

1. Use scalpels, scissors, and other sharp instruments only as instructed. Never cut any material towards you—always cut away from your body.
2. When using a thermometer: Do not shake a thermometer to reset it. Do not use a thermometer to stir a liquid. Never allow a thermometer to touch the bottom of a container that is being heated. If your glass thermometer breaks, immediately alert your teacher.
3. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped, cracked, or dirty glassware.
4. Handle all glassware with care. Never pick up hot or broken glassware with your bare hands.
5. Report broken glass to your teacher immediately.
6. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water. The glassware may shatter.
7. 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.

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8. In the event that we use fire (e.g. a candle, Bunsen burner), your teacher will light the heat source for you. Use extreme caution near open flames.
9. Do not put anything into a flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Do not leave a heat source (e.g. candles or hot plates) unattended.
10. 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.
11. Never look into a container that is being heated.
12. 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.
13. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, **ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR HELP.**
14. If we use a microscope, always carry a microscope using both hands.

Accident and Emergencies

1. Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) or injury (cut, burn, etc.) to your teacher immediately, no matter how trivial it seems. Do not panic.
2. If you or your lab partner is hurt, immediately (and loudly) yell out your teacher's name to get the teacher's attention. Do not panic.
3. Know what to do and where to go if there is a fire drill during a laboratory period; containers must be closed, and any electrical equipment turned off.
4. If a chemical should splash in your eye(s), immediately go to the eye wash station, and flush with running water for at least 20 minutes. Immediately (and loudly) yell out your teacher's name to get the teacher's attention.
5. If a chemical should splash on your body, go immediately to the safety shower, and immediately yell out your teacher's name to get the teacher's attention, and then activate the safety shower. The body must be flushed with water for at least 20 minutes.



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AGREEMENT

I, _____ (student's name) have read and understand each of the above safety rules set forth in this Lab Safety Contract. I will demonstrate knowledge of these rules by scoring 90% or above on the safety test. I agree to follow the rules to ensure not only my own safety but also the safety of others. I also agree to follow the general rules of appropriate behavior for a classroom at all times to avoid accidents and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone. I am aware and understand 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 lab classroom, detention, receiving a failing grade, and/or further disciplinary action.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Dear Parent or Guardian: We feel that you should be informed of the Sycamore Canyon school's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment. Please read the list of safety rules and review them with your student.

No student will be permitted to perform laboratory activities unless:

1. Students has received a 90% or higher on the safety test
and
2. This contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian
and
3. This contract is on file with your student's science teacher

Your signature on this Lab Safety Contract indicates that you have read this contract, reviewed it with your child, and are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your student in the science classroom.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Important Questions:

Does your child wear contact lenses? Y or N

Is your child color blind? Y or N

Does your child have any allergies? Y or N

If so, please list: