

Science Safety Contract

Science is a hands-on laboratory class. However, science activities may have potential hazards. We will use some equipment that may be dangerous if not handled properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. To ensure a safe classroom, a list of rules has been developed and is called the **Science 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 contract has been signed by both the student and a parent or guardian.**

SAFETY RULES

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the 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.
3. Do not touch any equipment, supplies, or other materials in the science room without permission from the teacher.
4. Perform only authorized and approved experiments.
5. Never eat, drink, chew gum, or taste anything in the science room.
6. Keep hands away from face, eyes, and mouth while using science materials or when working with chemicals. Wash your hands with soap and water before leaving the science room.
7. Wear safety goggles when instructed. Never remove safety goggles during an experiment.
8. Keep your work area and the science room neat and clean. Bring only laboratory instructions, worksheets, and writing instruments to the work area.
9. 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.
10. Follow your teacher's instructions to dispose of any waste materials generated in an experiment.
11. Report any accident, injury, or hazardous condition to the teacher immediately.
12. Consider all chemicals used in the science room to be dangerous. Do not touch or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
13. Never return unused chemicals to their original containers. When transferring reagents from one container to another, hold the containers away from your body.
14. 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.
15. Report damaged electrical equipment immediately. Look for things such as frayed cords, exposed wires, and loose connections. Do not use damaged electrical equipment.
16. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the teacher for help. Always carry a microscope with both hands. Hold the arm with one hand; place the other hand under the base.
17. Treat all preserved specimens and dissecting supplies with care and respect.
 - a. Do not remove preserved specimens from the classroom.
 - b. Use scalpels, scissors, and other sharp instruments only as instructed.
 - c. Never cut any material towards you-always cut away from your body.
 - d. Report any cut or scratch from sharp instruments to the teacher immediately.
18. Never open storage cabinets or enter the prep/storage room without permission from the teacher.
19. Do not remove chemicals, equipment, or supplies from the science room without permission from the teacher.
20. Handle all glassware with care. Examine all glassware before each use. Never use cracked, chipped, or broken glassware. Never use dirty glassware.
21. Carry glass tubing, especially long pieces, in a vertical position to minimize the likelihood of breakage or injury.
22. Never pick up hot or broken glassware with your bare hands. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water; it may shatter.
23. Heated metals and glass remain hot for a very long time. They should be set aside to cool and picked up with caution. Use tongs or heat-protective gloves if necessary.
24. Use extreme caution when using matches, a burner, or hot plate. Only light burners when instructed and do not put anything into a flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Do not leave a lit burner unattended.
25. Do not place hot apparatus directly on the laboratory desk. Always use an insulating pad. Allow plenty of time for hot apparatus to cool before touching. Never look into a container that is being heated.
26. Dress properly-long hair must be tied back, no dangling jewelry, and no loose or baggy clothing. Wear aprons when instructed.
27. 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.

AGREEMENT

I, _____ (student's name) have read, understand, and agree to each of the above 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 teacher and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. 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 being removed from the laboratory and receive a failing grade.

Student Signature

Date

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please read the list of safety rules. **No** student will be permitted to perform science activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher. Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this Science Safety Contract, reviewed it with your child, and are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your son/daughter in the science classroom.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date