

# LAB SAFETY



Science is a process of discovering and exploring the natural world. Explorations can occur in the classroom/laboratory or in the field. As part of your science instruction, you will conduct many activities and investigations that will involve the use of a variety of materials, equipment, and chemicals. As a result, you may be exposed to biological, chemical, and physical hazards. Safety is the **FIRST PRIORITY** for students, instructors, and parents. To ensure safe experiences, the following safety operating procedures—based on legal safety standards and better professional safety practices—have been developed for the protection and safety of everyone. The safety operating procedures must be followed at all times.

## SAFETY STANDARDS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM, LABORATORY, OR FIELD

- Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times. Inappropriate behavior such as throwing things, and doing unauthorized experiments are prohibited.
- Read all lab and safety operating procedures before conducting an activity and follow all verbal and written instructions during the activity or investigation
- Eating, drinking, chewing gum, applying cosmetics (including lip balm), touching contact lenses, or conducting other unsafe activities are not permitted. Food

storage is not allowed in the laboratory.

- Do not touch any materials, equipment, etc., for a lab activity until instructed to do so by the teacher.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

- Dress appropriately for laboratory work by protecting your body with clothing and shoes. Long hair should be tied back and collars tucked in. Avoid wearing loose or baggy clothing and dangling jewelry. Acrylic nails are a safety hazard near heat sources and should not be used. Sandals or open-toe shoes are not to be worn during any lab activities. Refer to pre-lab instructions. ***If in doubt, ask!***
- Know the location of and how to operate all safety equipment in the room. This includes eyewash stations, the deluge shower, fire extinguishers, the fume hood, and the safety blanket. Know the location of emergency master electric and gas shutoffs and exits.
- All accidents, chemical spills, broken glassware, and injuries (including minor burns) must be reported immediately to the instructor, no matter how trivial they may seem at the time. Follow your instructor's directions for immediate treatment.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS REGARDING CHEMICALS AND LAB EQUIPMENT

- Never taste or smell a chemical solution. When checking for odor, waft by sweeping your hand over the container. Avoid inhaling fumes that may be generated during an activity or investigation.
- Proper procedures shall be followed when using any heating or flame-producing device, especially gas burners. Remove all flammable materials from the area before lighting a match, candle, or Bunsen burner. Never leave a flame unattended.
- Always read reagent bottle labels twice before you use the reagent to be certain you are using the correct chemical. Do not use any chemicals stored in unlabeled bottles and inform your teacher if a label is missing from a reagent bottle.

- Replace the top on any reagent bottle immediately after use and return the reagent to the designated location. Follow the teacher's instructions for carrying chemicals.
- Do not return unused chemicals to the reagent container. Follow the instructor's directions for the storage or disposal of these materials.

## STANDARDS FOR MAINTAINING A SAFE LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT

- To prevent potential cross contamination, backpacks and books are to remain in an area designated by the instructor and should not be brought into the laboratory area.
- Work areas should be kept clean and neat at all times and cleaned at the end of each laboratory or activity.
- Solid chemicals, metals, matches, filter papers, broken glass, and other materials designated by the instructor are to be deposited in the proper waste containers, not in the sink. Follow your instructor's directions for disposal of waste.
- Sinks are to be used for the disposal of water and those solutions designated by the instructor. Other solutions must be placed in the designated waste disposal containers.

## AGREEMENT

I have read the above safety operating procedures and agree to follow them during any science lab, investigation, or activity. By signing this form, I acknowledge that given the biological, chemical or physical hazards, the science classroom, laboratory, or field can be an unsafe place to learn. The safety-operating procedures are developed to help prevent accidents and to ensure my own safety and the safety of my fellow students. I will follow any additional instructions given by my instructor. I understand that I may ask my instructor at any time about the safety operating procedures if they are not clear to me. My failure to follow these science laboratory operating procedures may result in disciplinary action.

**STUDENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read and reviewed the lab safety rules with my child.*

**PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT / GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_