

GHS Science Lab Safety Rules and Procedures

Science is a hands-on class. Safety in the science classroom is the #1 priority for students, teachers and parents. To ensure a safe science classroom, a list of safety guidelines has been incorporated in this student safety contract. Additional safety instructions will be given before each lab.

Conduct In the Laboratory: When I am in Science Class, I will...

1. **Conduct myself in a responsible manner at all times.** Horseplay, fooling around, or pranks can be dangerous and are prohibited. Do not wander around the room, distract other students, or interfere with the work of others. Never run, hurry, or push someone in the lab
2. **Perform only those experiments authorized by the teacher.** I will not try my own experiments or try variations of the experiment we are doing. I won't repeat experiments we do in class at home without permission of both my teacher and parents.
3. **Read and follow all directions exactly as they are written.** If in doubt, I will ask my teacher for help!
4. **Never touch materials or equipment until instructed to do so.** Any materials, chemicals, and lab equipment should be left alone until you are instructed to use it.
5. **Stay out of storage rooms, cabinets, and drawers - unless I am given permission to do so.**
6. **Work cooperatively with my lab partners to help them and myself learn as much as possible from the lab activities.** I will treat the people in my lab group with respect.
7. **Use all lab equipment and materials only in ways appropriate for the success of my lab activities.** I will not damage equipment due to negligent or irresponsible behavior or failing to follow directions.
8. **Never eat or drink food in the lab.** Eating, drinking, and chewing gum are not allowed in lab EVER!.

Clothing/Lab Area: When I am in Science Class, I will...

9. **Always wear safety goggles whenever I am working with chemicals or other substances that might get into my eyes.** I will keep safety glasses on during the entire lab and for clean-up. At the end of the lab, I will return the safety glasses to the proper shelf in the sterilizing cabinet.
10. **Dress properly for the lab.** I will tie back my long hair. I am aware that dangling jewelry, loose or baggy clothing, and sleeves below the elbows can all present safety problems.
11. **Keep my lab area clean and neat.** I will keep aisles clear and free of book bags; push stools in when not in use; keep equipment and chemicals away from the edge of the table or counter so they are not knocked off; and always clean up my work area and equipment after an experiment is completed. Equipment will be returned to its proper place.
12. **Never take anything from the lab unless it is checked out in writing by the instructor.**

Lab Procedure Safety: When I am in Science Class, I will...

13. **Learn where the safety equipment is located (fire extinguishers, eye wash, first aid kit, fire blanket) and learn how to use it.** I will know where exits are located and what to do in case of a fire drill. I am familiar with safety equipment, and I know how to use the intercom to call for help.
14. **Never reach across a flame.** I can get burned or catch my clothing on fire. I will keep my work area clean and all materials (clothing, hair, papers, etc.) away from flames or other heat sources.
15. **Never look directly into a test tube when mixing or heating chemicals.** Chemicals can spray out or spit out at me during reactions or when heated. I will always point a test tube away from me and others when heating it over a flame or other heat source.

16. **Never smell a chemical directly from the container. I will never taste or smell a chemical unless I am instructed by my teacher to do so.** I will wave my hand over the opening of the container and "waft" the fumes toward my nose to smell a less concentrated amount and not burn my nose or throat.
17. **Never mix chemicals (or perform tests or my own experiment) without my teacher's permission.** Certain chemicals can produce toxic fumes if mixed or cause dangerous exothermic reactions. A new, dangerous toxic chemical could be produced that would put me and my lab group in danger.
18. **Help avoid spills by keeping lids on bottles and containers when not in use.**
19. **Never use broken or chipped glassware.** Broken glassware can be weakened and may shatter or break when heated. I also could get cut on a chipped piece of glass. If glassware breaks, I will stop and report it immediately. I will not move until your teacher says it is safe to do so. (There may be small slivers of glass that you do not notice. Your teacher will collect the broken glass, not you. More minor cuts occur after this type of accident than during it. Chemical spills are often involved with glass breakage. All broken glass must go in the broken glass box-not the trash can!)
20. **Wash my hands after experiments that use chemicals.** I could be unaware that I have chemicals on my hands after a lab. Rubbing my eyes could get the chemicals in my eyes. Touching food could get the chemicals inside my body.
21. **Discard in the sinks only those liquids or solids indicated by my teacher.** Some chemicals are not allowed to be poured down the drain. They can corrode the pipes and hurt the environment. Solids can block up the drains and react with other chemicals. I will never put trash or papers in the sinks!
22. **Try to avoid wearing contact lenses when doing experiments with chemicals.** It is almost impossible to remove contacts after chemicals have been splashed into the eyes. Chemicals trapped under contacts will damage the eye even more than normal. The plastic used for some types of contact lenses is permeable to vapors found in the laboratory. If these vapors are trapped behind the lens, extensive irritation may occur. For these reasons it is not recommended that students wear contact lenses during labs if at all possible.

In Case of an Accident: When I am in Science Class, I will...

23. **Immediately notify my teacher if I get a cut or have another injury while performing an experiment.** I will report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.) or unsafe condition to the teacher immediately, no matter how trivial it may appear. I will notify the teacher if any chemical gets on my skin or clothing to find out what to do to clean it off. In general, if chemicals splash on skin or clothing I will rinse immediately with plenty of water.

I _____ have read and understood all of the Lab Safety rules and procedures. While I am in science lab, I agree to conduct myself in a manner that ensures the safety of myself and everyone in the laboratory.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date