

Name: _____

Period: _____

Lab Safety Precautions & Guidelines

The following lab precautions and guidelines are designed to help you through a safe and successful lab course in science.

1. General Lab Conditions and Rules

- No running, throwing or fooling around in the classroom
- No gum, food or drink of any kind is permitted in the classroom at any time
- Read all lab directions before beginning lab work. If you have any questions about the directions, ask the teacher for assistance before beginning the lab
- Never perform any activities that are not authorized by the teacher
- Never handle any equipment or chemicals without permission
- All lab equipment and materials must be returned to its designated area before students can be dismissed from class
- Long hair must be tied back
- Long sleeves must be rolled up and loose fitting garments (coats, jewelry, etc.) must be removed during lab
- Keep aisles clear of book bags, coats, etc. during lab so no one will trip over them

2. Goggles

- Goggles must be worn when required by the safety precautions or when the teacher says so
- Any adjusting or removal of goggles during lab must be done at the entrance door of the classroom
- The eyewash station should be used only to flush eyes in the event of a chemical splash

3. In case of fire

- Vacate the area immediately! Inform the teacher and follow the directions that are given

- Use the fire blanket for “human” fires and the fire extinguisher for “non-human” fires
- If you are burned, go immediately to the sink and flush the burned area with cold water

4. Glassware

- If you break a piece of glassware, do not attempt to pick it up yourself. Inform your teacher, who will remove it safely
- Do not work with glass that has rough edges or cracks
- Never point a test tube or container at yourself or at any other person.
- Never look into a test tube or container unless this action is part of the lab procedure and you are instructed to do so by your teacher

5. Use of chemicals

- Do not touch, taste or drink any chemicals in the lab
- If you must smell a chemical, use the *wafting technique* (hold the chemical 12 inches away from your nose and gently use your hand to wave the vapors towards you)
- All chemical spills must be reported to the teacher immediately so they can be cleaned correctly
- Make sure all chemicals are labeled properly
- Do not pour used chemicals into the sink unless instructed to by the teacher; instead use the chemical waste bucket.
- When carrying chemicals around the classroom, make others around you aware of your presence
- Keep hands away from your face when working with chemicals
- Wash your hands after handling chemicals
- If your skin or clothing is splashed by a chemical, immediately wash the area with water and inform the teacher
- Never pick up a chemical container by the lid
- Never place the lid on the table with the chemical side down