

**HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
OFFICE OF SCIENCE
STUDENT SAFETY CONTRACT**

Science is a hands-on laboratory class. Safety in the science classroom is the #1 priority for students, teachers, and parents. To ensure a safe science classroom, a list of rules has been developed and provided to you in this student safety contract. These rules must be followed at all times. Copies of the contract, which will be kept on file with your instructor, must be signed by both you and a parent or guardian before you can participate in the laboratory. A copy is to be kept in your science notebook as a constant reminder of the laboratory safety rules in your classroom.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. At all times pay attention, follow directions, and think about what you are doing. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory.
2. No laboratory work is to be done unless the instructor is in the class. If you do not understand how to use equipment, chemicals, proper and safe procedures, ask the instructor of assistance.
3. Follow all posted equipment/procedure safety rules and follow safety zone rules given by the teacher.
4. Perform only those experiments and use the appropriate equipment authorized by the instructor.
5. Handle and use equipment only when performing class-related work.
6. Do not eat food, drink beverages, or chew gum in the laboratory.
7. Know the locations and operating procedures of all safety equipment including the first aid kit, eyewash station, safety shower, and fire blanket. Know where the fire alarm and the exits are located. Know the location of the call button to the front office if further help is needed.
8. Use eye protective devices when chemicals, glassware, and electrical or heat sources are used. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Contact lenses should not be worn in the laboratory unless you have permission from your instructor. Wear protective clothing provided in the class when prescribed by safety procedures.
9. Read all procedures thoroughly before entering the laboratory. Labels and equipment instructions must be read carefully.

CHEMICAL AND EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES

10. When completing an experiment, clean your work area thoroughly. Turn off all gas and water valves if used, and flush disposed liquids down the sink with a large amount of water. Put all materials away after use.
11. Do not use the sink to discard matches, papers, or solid materials. Use chemical waste jars to dispose of materials that cannot be placed in the sink. Place broken glass in the proper container and clean area with a damp paper towel to pick up any remaining fragments.
12. Do not return unused chemicals to their original containers unless specifically requested to do so.
13. All chemicals in the laboratory are to be considered dangerous unless they are known to be safe. Do not remove chemicals of equipment from the class unless directed to do so. Do not inhale chemical vapors. Never pipette by mouth. Never mix chemicals unless instructed to do so by your teacher.
14. Carry sharp or pointed tools downward and away from others.
15. Get assistance when handling large, heavy, or bulky items.
16. Report all unsafe conditions, accidents, or injuries immediately. If a chemical should splash in your eye(s) or on your skin, immediately flush with running water from the eyewash station or safety shower for at least 20 minutes. Notify the instructor immediately.
17. Always lubricate glass tubing and thermometers before inserting them in a stopper.
18. Never point the open end of a test tube being heated at yourself or others.
19. Always acid to water, never water to acid.
20. Never leave anything unattended while it is heating or reacting.
21. Disconnect appliances by pulling the plug rather than pulling the cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, or outlet. Turn off and unplug power supplies before making circuit connections.

PERSONAL SAFETY

22. Experiments must be personally monitored at all times. Do not wander away from your assigned lab area. Avoid distracting others while they are involved with an experiment.
23. Dress properly during a laboratory activity. Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing must be secured. Take care that hair, clothing and hands are a safe distance from flames at all times.
24. Wear shoes that completely cover the foot and have non-slip soles.
25. Never look into a container that is being heated.
26. After each experiment wash hands thoroughly before leaving the classroom.

Questions

27. Do you wear contact lenses? Yes No 28. Are you color blind? Yes No
29. Do you have allergies Yes No
If so, list specific allergies _____

For the Student:

I, _____ (print student name), have read and agree to follow all of the 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 instructors. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also follow the oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. 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 my removal from the laboratory.

Student Signature

Date

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We feel that you should be informed regarding the school's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment. With the cooperation of the instructors, parents, and students, a safety instruction program can eliminate, prevent, and correct possible hazards. You should be aware of the safety instructions your son/daughter will receive before engaging in any laboratory work.

Please read the list of safety rules above. Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this Student Safety Contract, are aware of the measures taken to insure the safety of your child in the science laboratory, and will instruct your child to uphold his/her agreement to follow these rules and procedures in the laboratory.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date