

Safety in the Science Laboratory-Randolph County Schools

Accidents happen every day in many activities. Statistically, most accidents happen in the home or while driving a car. Few accidents have occurred in the science classroom. However, in order to decrease the chances of any accidents occurring, all students and visitors to the science lab are required to follow the safety procedures listed below:

1. Horseplay, running, pushing, shoving and practical jokes are a serious hazard in the science lab. There are many glass objects and chemicals which could be damaged or could injure you. Such behavior is not permitted.
2. **NEVER EAT OR DRINK** from lab equipment.
3. **NEVER TASTE CHEMICALS FOR ANY REASON.**
4. **NEVER PERFORM AN UNAUTHORIZED EXPERIMENT.** Many chemicals emit dangerous gases or may explode if combined.
5. **NEVER CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS IN THE LABORATORY ALONE.**
6. Confine long hair and loose clothing.
7. Goggles must be worn when engaging in or observing activities involving potential hazards to the eye.
8. All work surfaces in the laboratory should be cleaned after each use.
9. Never allow the open end of a heated test tube to be pointed toward anyone.
10. When alcohol is heated, it must be in a water bath in such a way that the container holding the alcohol is below the top of the water bath container.
11. When heating materials in glassware by means of a gas flame, the glassware should be protected from direct contact with the flame through the use of a wire gauze.
12. Never touch any heating equipment or recently heated glassware. It may not look hot but could burn you badly.
13. Make certain that all hot plates and open burners are turned off when leaving the laboratory.
14. Broken or chipped glassware should never be used.
15. Never try to pick up broken glass. It should be swept up carefully.
16. Broken glass in sinks should be promptly removed as it presents a serious hazard to all using the sink.
17. Take great care in noting odors or fumes. Use a wafting motion of the hand. **Never** put a bottle to your nose and breathe deeply.
18. Always flame wire loops prior to and after transferring micro-organisms.
19. Never use mouth suction in filling pipettes with a chemical reagent. Use a suction bulb.
20. Never force glass tubing or thermometers into rubber stoppers. Your teacher will instruct you on how to do this safely.
21. Never pour water into acid. Correctly dilute the acid by pouring it into water.
22. Direct viewing of the sun, infrared and ultraviolet light sources should be avoided at all times.
23. Good housekeeping is essential in maintaining a safe lab. Keep your desk area and floor area clean.
24. Always wash your hands after lab exercises. Never put your fingers, pencils, pens or any equipment used in the lab in your mouth.
25. Note the locations of the following: (a) exits (b) sink (c) fire extinguisher (d) eye wash/shower (e) first aid kit.
26. **REPORT ALL INJURIES TO THE TEACHER IMMEDIATELY.**
27. In case of an emergency – **DO NOT RUN.** Leave your books and other possessions at your desk, push your chair in and leave by the nearest safe exit. **DO NOT SCREAM OR YELL** unless no one else is aware of the emergency. If everyone knows of the problem, screaming will only create confusion.
28. Contact lenses should not be worn while doing experiments unless permission is granted by the teacher for a particular activity.

----- Cut on the dotted line. -----

SCIENCE SAFETY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and AGREEMENT

I, _____, have had the safety rules for the science laboratory explained to me and agree to follow these rules while in science class. **I understand that if I do not adhere to safe science procedures, that I may be removed from lab activities and given an alternate assignment and /or other consequences deemed appropriate.**

Student's Signature

Date

I have read the safety rules and am aware that the above named student must follow these rules while in science class.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE STUDENT'S SCIENCE TEACHER BEFORE LABORATORY WORK CAN BE STARTED. A copy will be kept on file at the school. Thank you for your cooperation in this critical safety area.

(Revised August 2010 –RCS)