

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SAFETY RULES

A signed copy of this contract must be on file with the science teacher in order for a student to participate in classroom laboratories.

The science laboratory is a place where learning opportunity is dependent upon carefully planned procedures, good judgment, alertness, and curiosity, coupled with the desire to follow the principles of the scientific method. Following safe procedures is very important in any laboratory situation. It is especially important in a physical science lab because open flames, flammable materials, toxic chemicals, and caustic chemicals (those that can seriously burn the skin) are often present. This contract also applies to some biology, geology, and astronomy labs. Keep in mind that some of the equipment you will be using is very expensive. Following is list of some of the more important safety instructions. Additional safety instructions will be given for each lab.

1. Do not mix chemicals or perform unauthorized experiments. Always obtain your teacher's permission.
2. Never use chemicals from an unlabeled container.
3. Study your lab assignment before you come to the lab. If you are in doubt about any procedures, ask your teacher for help.
4. Wear safety goggles and laboratory apron when indicated - always wear goggles when using open flame, chemicals or glassware. No exceptions to this rule!
5. Keep all books, papers and other flammable materials away from open flame.
6. Pour acid into water, never water into acid.
7. Tie back long hair when you are working with an open flame. Avoid wearing clothes with loose sleeves.
8. Gloves should be worn whenever you use chemicals that cause skin irritation or can be absorbed through the skin.
9. A fire extinguisher, safety shower, eye wash, fire blanket, and first aid kit are available. Know where these are and how to use them.
10. When heating a test tube, hold it tilted and point it away from other students.
11. While in the laboratory, never put anything in your mouth.
12. Do not handle chemicals without the supervision of a teacher.

13. In case of an accident, notify the teacher immediately. For example, you must report any chemical spills, breakage of equipment, or physical injury.
14. Clean your work area with a damp cloth after returning equipment to its proper place. If you have been handling chemicals, wash your hands before leaving the science room.
15. Burners should be lit only when needed during an experiment and extinguished as soon as possible. Always take extra care around an open flame.
16. Dispose of materials as indicated in the lab. Some chemicals may be poured into the sink with the cold water running. Other circumstances require that special containers be used for chemical disposal. Place broken glassware in the proper container - never in the trash.
17. Behavior in a laboratory situation should be appropriate at all times. Inappropriate behavior will result in loss of laboratory privileges for a specified length of time. You are graded on your work during lab and on your lab reports. Loss of lab privileges will result in a lower grade.

CONTRACT:

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND EACH OF THESE RULES PERTAINING TO SCIENCE LABORATORIES. I AGREE TO FOLLOW THEM TO ENSURE MY OWN SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF MY CLASSMATES. I REALIZE THAT VIOLATIONS OF THESE RULES MAY RESULT IN MY NOT BEING ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN LAB EXERCISES.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____