

Earth Science Lab Safety Contract

At times Earth Science is a hands-on class. However, science activities may have potential hazards. We may use some equipment and chemicals that may be dangerous if not handled properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. The rules listed below must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity. No science student will be allowed to participate in science activities until both student and a parent/guardian have signed this contract.

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the lab. Horseplay, practical jokes and pranks will not be tolerated.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. Ask your teacher if you do not understand the instructions.
3. Do not touch any equipment, supplies or other materials in the lab until instructed to do so.
4. Only perform experiments approved by your teacher.
5. Be prepared for your work in the lab. Read all procedures thoroughly before beginning the lab.
6. Never eat, drink, chew gum or taste anything in the science room.
7. Keep hands away from face, eyes and mouth while using lab materials. Wash your hands with soap and water when you are finished with the lab.
8. Follow your teacher's instructions for disposal of waste materials.
9. Clean all work areas and equipment. If you finish early, help clean up common areas. Nobody leaves the lab until the entire lab space is clean and all materials are accounted for.
10. Never remove chemicals, equipment or other supplies from the lab unless instructed to do so.
11. Consider all chemicals used in the lab to be dangerous. Do not touch, smell or taste any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
12. Treat all preserved specimens and dissecting supplies with care and respect.
 - a. Do not remove preserved specimens from the science room.
 - b. Use scalpels, scissors and other sharp objects only as directed.
 - c. Never cut any material towards you – always cut away from your body.
 - d. Report any cut or scratch to the teacher immediately.
13. Report any accident, injury or hazardous conditions to the teacher immediately.
14. Do not handle broken glassware with your bare hands.
15. Always carry a microscope with both hands. Hold the arm with one hand and the base with the other hand.
16. Dress properly – long hair must be tied back, no dangling jewelry, no loose or baggy clothing. Wear aprons and goggles when instructed to do so.
17. Learn where the safety equipment is and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.
18. Be aware of what is going on in your experiment at all times. Do not wander around the room, distract other students or interfere with the experiments of other students. Stay on task!
19. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped or cracked glassware.
20. Do not open storage cabinets without permission from the teacher.

Failure to comply with lab safety rules will result in a ZERO and removal from the lab!