Lab Expectations and Safety

Science laboratory activities often provide wonderful hands-on experiences for students. The success of a lab is dependant on students behaving in a mature manner, listening and following instructions, and always being aware of safety in the lab.

The following guidelines will help to make sure every student has a safe, rewarding and valuable educational experience in science lab.

- **Lab voices**: Student may talk to their lab partners in lab voices = whispering in a low voice. The teacher must be able to hear across the room, in case of an emergency.

- **Food**: Food is not allowed in lab, because of the risk of ingesting something inedible or toxic by accident.

- **Know Your Safety Equipment**: Our lab is equipped with a safety shower, eyewash station, emergency numbers posted above the phone and a fire exit map. Students will also wear safety goggles for any lab in which liquids or chemicals are used.

- **Be Prepared**: Read the lab ahead of time so that you know what you will be doing. Help avoid mistakes.

**WORK EXPECTATIONS IN LAB:**

During **individual work**, you are expected to:
- Work quietly
- Work to the best of your ability
- Avoid disturbing other’s learning.
- Write detailed answers
- Think and be creative
- Ask questions

During **group work**, you are expected to:
- Work cooperatively
- Help each other
- Listen to each other
- Talk in a low voice
- Listen to, and follow, all instructions
- Write your own answers, plagiarism is not allowed
GROUP ROLES:

**Supervisor:** Monitors the procedure to make sure no steps are missed and assigns individual steps to group members

**Materials Manager:** Obtains and dispenses all equipment. This is the only group member allowed to move around the classroom without special permission during the activity.

**Maintenance Director:** Responsible for maintaining a clean work area and assigning individual cleanup tasks.

**Recorder/Reporter:** Collects information, certify and record results, and reports results to group and class.

GENERAL LAB SAFETY RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:

1. Follow the teacher’s instructions regarding lab safety and procedures.
2. Always ask if you are unsure about something.
3. Never work alone in the lab.
4. Perform ONLY the experiments that you are authorized to do.
5. Immediately report all injuries, no matter how small, to the instructor.
6. NO FOOD or DRINK is allowed in the lab.
7. Broken or cracked glass should be discarded in the box provided. Do not pick up broken glass with your fingers. Ask the teacher for help cleaning it up.
8. Keep materials not essential to the experiment off the worktable (Books, bags)
9. Always maintain a business-like attitude. *The lab is a dangerous place for horseplay.*
10. Goggles and gloves are used for any labs in which chemicals are used or for any situations in which there is the chance of injury to eyes or skin.
11. Know the fire escape route for your room.
12. Know the location of the fire-extinguisher, eye-wash station and emergency shower.
13. Know how to call the nurse or office in a situation where the instructor requests or requires student assistance.
14. Neatness – Keep notebooks on side counter; avoid wearing loose clothing and sleeves, and tie back long hair.
15. Avoid plugging in electrical equipment near sinks and open water.
16. Chemical safety is critical. Safety data sheets are available and students will be instructed on how to dispose of individual chemicals.
17. Animals and plants. All living organisms must be treated with the utmost respect in lab. Preserved specimens being dissected are to be treated with the same respect as a living organism.

*Any student not abiding by these safety rules may be given an alternative written assignment in place of the hands-on activity.*