Safety for Science Students

Science Laboratory Regulations

**Maintain quiet, orderly behaviour during laboratory periods.**

* Always be alert. Take care not to bump another student. Remain in your lab station while performing an experiment; an unattended experiment could result in an accident.
* Study the procedure of the experiment before performing it. If you are uncertain about the correct procedure to be followed ask the teacher.
* Advise your teacher of any medical condition (contact lenses, allergies, respiratory problems, etc.) that might be aggravated by a particular experiment.
* Never attempt unauthorized experiments. No laboratory work may be carried on without the teacher’s permission. Do not begin an experiment unless directed to do so by the teacher.
* Stand up while doing an experiment unless directed by the teacher.
* Never wear expensive clothing if laboratory work is to be done.
* Avoid loose, bulky clothing, such as winter jackets, coat, etc. and dangling jewelry. Shorts, sandals, and bare feet are prohibited. Keep long hair tied back especially when an open flame is nearby.
* Never bring food or drink into the laboratory and do no drink from the lab glassware.
* The storage room is out of bounds to all students except when permission has been granted to individuals by the teacher.

**Personal Protection**

* Wear safety glasses when instructed to do so by your teacher
* Know the location and correct operation of all safety equipment.
* The most common type of student injury is a burn caused by touching objects which have just been heated. Determine whether an object is hot by bringing the back of your hand up close (but not directly touching it).

**Lab Practices**

* Keep all work areas clean and tidy. Clean and wipe all desks, tables, or laboratory work areas at the end of each laboratory activity.
* Never carry hot equipment or dangerous chemicals through a crowd of students.
* Always waft odours toward your nose with your hand. Never breathe them directly.
* Wash your hands after handling any chemicals. Check with your teacher to see if gloves should be worn.
* When removing an electric plug from its socket, pull the plug and not the cord. Report frayed cords to the teacher. Bare electrical wire can be extremely dangerous.

**Chemicals**

* Never taste chemicals. Use caution when handling all chemicals.
* Mercury is highly toxic. Never handle it with your bare hands. Report any spilled or exposed mercury.
* When pouring chemicals from a beaker, use a stirring rod to direct the flow.

**Glassware**

* Report all sharp edges on prisms, mirrors, glass plates, metal objects, etc., to the teacher so they can be removed or repaired.
* Broken glassware should be placed in a container provided for that purpose.
* Be especially careful not to leave broken glass on the benches or in sinks. A separate container should be used for insoluble residues. Never empty these into the sink.
* Erlenmeyer flasks and beakers should be clamped to ring stands in addition to being supported on wire gauze and a ring.

**Disposal**

* Dispose of chemicals and specimens as instructed by the teacher.
* Flush sink drains thoroughly after using chemical if they are disposed of in the sink.
* Never return unused solutions to stock containers.

**First Aid**

* Rinse any skin burns immediately with lots of water. If an eye is involved irrigate it immediately without interruption for a minimum of 15 minutes. Refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the chemical involved for specific directions.
* Report all injuries to the teacher immediately, regardless of how minor.

**Spills**

* Be aware of what appears to be drops of water on a laboratory bench. They may be a corrosive liquid.
* Report all breakages and spilled chemicals to the teacher.