**PURPOSE**

You will be doing many laboratory activities which may have potential hazards if materials are not handled properly. Safety in the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process and it is the #1 priority for teachers and students. To ensure a safe science classroom, a list of guidelines has been developed and provided to you in this document. These guidelines must be followed at all times. Additional safety instructions will be given for each activity. Teachers, parents, and students will be asked to sign the acknowledgment as a proclamation toward a safe laboratory experience.

**SAFETY GUIDELINES**

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the science room. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks will not be tolerated.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. Ask your teacher questions if you do not understand the instructions.
3. Do not touch any equipment, supplies, animals, or other materials in the science room without permission from the teacher.
4. Perform only authorized and approved experiments. Do not conduct any experiments when the teacher is out of the room.
5. Never eat, drink, chew gum, or taste anything in the science room.
6. Keep hands away from face, eyes, and mouth while using science materials or when working with either chemicals or animals. Wash your hands with soap and water before leaving the science room.
7. Wear safety glasses or goggles when instructed. Never remove safety glasses or goggles during an experiment. There will be no exceptions to this rule!
8. Keep your work area and the science room neat and clean. Bring only your laboratory instructions, worksheets, and writing instruments to the work area.
9. Clean all work areas and equipment at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
10. Follow your teacher’s instructions to dispose of any waste materials generated in an experiment.
11. Report any accident (fire, spill, break- age, etc.), injury (cut, burn, etc.), or hazardous condition (broken equipment, etc.) to the teacher immediately.
12. Consider all chemicals used in the science room to be dangerous. Do not touch or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
13. Handle all animals with care and respect.
    1. Open animal cages only with permission.
    2. Never handle any animals when the teacher is out of the room.
    3. Do not take animals out of the science room.
    4. Do not tease or handle animals roughly.
    5. Keep animals away from students’ faces.
    6. Wear gloves when handling animals.
    7. Report any animal bite or scratch to the teacher immediately.
14. Always carry a microscope with both hands. Hold the arm with one hand; place the other hand under the base.
15. Treat all preserved specimens and dissecting supplies with care and respect.
    1. Do not remove preserved specimens from the science room.
    2. Use scalpels, scissors, and other sharp instruments only as instructed.
    3. Never cut any material towards you— always cut away from your body.
    4. Report any cut or scratch from sharp instruments to the teacher immediately.
16. Never open storage cabinets or enter the prep/storage room without permission from the teacher.
17. Do not remove chemicals, equipment, supplies, or animals from the science room without permission from the teacher.
18. Handle all glassware with care. Never pick up hot or broken glassware with your bare hands.
19. Use extreme caution when using matches, a burner, or hot plate. Only light burners when instructed and do not put anything into a flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Do not leave a lit burner unattended.
20. Dress properly—long hair must be tied back, no dangling jewelry, and no loose or baggy clothing. Wear aprons when instructed.
21. Learn where the safety equipment is located and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Teacher:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (teacher’s name) agree to follow all of the safety guidelines set forth in this document. I believe that safety is the #1 priority in a science classroom and that it is my responsibility to ensure the safety of my students at all times.

Teacher Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ (student’s name), have read and understand each of the above safety rules set forth in this acknowledgement. I agree to follow them to ensure not only my own safety but also the safety of others in the science classroom or laboratory. I also agree to follow the general rules of appropriate behavior for a classroom at all times to avoid accidents and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone. I understand that if I do not follow all the rules and safety precautions, I may not be allowed to participate in science labs but will instead have to complete an alternate assignment and I may also face disciplinary action.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dear Parent or Guardian:**

We feel that you should be informed regarding the school’s effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/ laboratory environment. With the cooperation of the instructors, parents, and students, a safety instruction program can eliminate, prevent, and correct possible hazards. We encourage you to read the list of safety guidelines provided. Your signature below indicates that you are aware of the importance of safety in a science classroom.

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_