

Science Classroom Safety: GECDSB Student Safety Contract

Safety should be a regular consideration during instruction in safety. Reviewing safety at the beginning of a Quadmester is important, however, it should be reviewed and reinforced when appropriate throughout the course. Students should be encouraged to make responsible decisions using available resources (SDS, personal protective equipment, etc.) whenever they take part in a laboratory activity.

Teachers should keep a signed student contact on record for each student in their classroom. A copy of the student contract is available on the Secondary Science conference on Edsby

You are responsible for your safety and the safety of those around you. Failure to act in a safe and responsible manner will result in the removal of all science lab privileges.

General Safety Precautions

1. Sanitize hands before handling any equipment.
2. Never participate in any form of inappropriate behaviour in the laboratory. Be aware of others in the lab.
3. No student should be in the lab or preparation room unsupervised.
4. Be prepared for your lab. Read your procedure for any safety precautions.
5. Do not eat or drink or chew gum in the lab.
6. Do not taste any chemical or material in the lab.
7. Do not smell chemicals unless instructed to do so. Use wafting technique.
8. Do not sit on lab benches.
9. Students must stand while doing labs.
10. Keep work area clean and free from clutter when performing experiments.
11. No unauthorized experiments.
12. Butane lighters, matches and other flammable materials must not be brought to class.
13. According to COVID-19 safety guidelines, masks must be worn at all times.
14. According to COVID-19 safety guidelines, please refrain from sharing of equipment, tools, and glassware. Only use your own pens and pencils.

Safety Equipment

1. Know the location of all safety equipment in the lab: fire extinguishers, eye wash station, fire exits and fire alarms.
2. Safety goggles must be worn for all experiments. Contact lenses should not be worn: use prescription glasses with goggles instead.
3. Dress properly during a lab activity. Long hair must be tied back, and dangling jewellery and baggy clothing must be secured. Shoes must completely cover the foot. No sandals are allowed on lab days.
4. Your teacher may require additional safety equipment, which must be worn.

Handling of Chemicals

1. All chemicals in the laboratory are to be considered dangerous. Do not allow chemicals to come into contact with skin or eyes.
2. Check the label on all chemical bottles twice before removing any of the contents. Take only as much as you need.
3. Never return unused chemicals to their original bottles. Dispose of chemicals as instructed by teacher.
4. No chemicals go down the drain. Dispose of chemicals as instructed by teacher.
5. Never remove chemicals or other materials from the lab.
6. Look for WHMIS symbols on containers.

Handling Glassware

1. Do not use cracked or chipped glassware.

2. Broken glass must be reported to the teacher who will give instructions for clean up and safe disposal. There is a designated glass disposal container
3. Do not tightly stopper a flask where gas is being created. It could explode.
4. Clean and return all glassware at the end of the lab.

Heating Glassware

1. Light a Bunsen burner as instructed by teacher. Never leave a heat source unattended.
2. Hot glass does not look hot. Handle recently heated glassware with tongs.
3. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water. The glassware will shatter.
4. When heating a test tube, always point the test tube away from yourself and others. Never look into a heated container.

Accidents and Injuries

1. Report all accidents and injuries to the teacher at once, no matter how minor.
2. If chemical are spilled on skin rinse well with running water for as long as directed by teacher.
3. For chemicals splashed in the eye, rinse immediately at the eye wash station for at least 30 minutes. Hold eyelids open.
4. If a chemical is spilled, immediately inform teacher and follow directions for safe clean up.
5. If a fire starts, inform a staff member immediately. Remember, if you are on fire, STOP ...DROP...ROLL.

When the Experiment is Complete

1. Clean all glassware and materials and put everything away according to instruction.
2. Wipe lab benches.
3. Disinfect safety goggles and return to designated storage (check with your teacher for disinfection procedures).
4. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.

Student Safety Declaration

1. I have read the laboratory safety rules.
2. I will agree to abide by the safety rules for my own safety and the safety of my peers.
3. I understand that failure to observe the laboratory safety rules may result in my laboratory privileges being cancelled.

Student Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please list any allergies or specific health concerns: _____

Dear Parents/ Guardians.

The above rules are Greater Essex County District School Board Guidelines to ensure that your son or daughter is able to participate in science labs in a safe and enjoyable manner. Please review these rules with your son or daughter. Failure to abide by these rules, including wearing inappropriate attire, may result in your child being unable to participate in lab activities.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____