

Middle School Lab Safety Rules and Procedures

You must follow all safety rules while performing any lab, 100% of the time. These guidelines are for your safety and the safety of others. You will be required to pass a quiz with a score of 100% in order to participate in labs.

Rules and Procedures:

- Read the entire lab before you begin and follow all lab instructions exactly as explained by your teacher.
- There is a **Zero Tolerance** policy for any form of horseplay during a lab.
- If you are unclear about a certain portion of the lab, ask your teacher.
- **Any accident**, regardless of the severity, must be reported to the teacher immediately.
- Always transport scissors or other sharp objects with the sharp end down; always cut away from yourself during dissection or other lab procedures.
- Eating and drinking is strictly forbidden during labs; only eat, smell, or taste an item if told to do so by your teacher.
- Know the location and use of all safety equipment in the lab, which includes: goggles, aprons, eye wash, fire blanket, fire extinguisher, lab shower, safety charts, MSDS binder and sharps/broken glass container.
- Report any damaged or broken equipment to your instructor immediately.
- Check cords and plugs for damage and keep the area dry when working with electrical equipment.

Clothing and Safety Equipment:

- Baggy clothes and long hair must be neatly secured while performing any experiment.
- Safety Goggles must be worn when:
 - Working with any form of heat
 - Working with chemicals
 - Working with sharp objects
 - Determined by the teacher

Heat Source:

- Attend to heat sources 100% of the time.
- When heating a substance, use proper equipment and point it away from everyone.
- Any glassware that is heated should not be immersed in cold water.

Chemicals:

- Only mix chemicals in the order described within the lab. **Always add acid last.**
- When smelling any chemical or substance, do so by wafting.
- All chemicals and/or any lab supplies must be accounted for at the completion of the lab. No chemical, item, or specimen should ever leave the lab room.
- Chemicals splashed on the skin or eyes should be **flushed with water for a minimum of 20 minutes.**

Lab Cleanliness:

- Keep your lab area neat and clean.
- Always dispose of chemicals properly and never return unused portions to the original container.
- Solid trash should be placed in the trash can; liquid wastes should be placed in the sink with lots of water or other designated disposal area as determined by your instructor. (Broken glass goes in the sharps container)
- All equipment must be thoroughly cleaned at the conclusion of the lab and returned to the assigned area.
- Wash your hands at the end of each lab.

Your safety and the safety of others is top priority!