

# Mansfield Middle School

## Science Safety Contract for Grades 5-8

Safety in the science classroom is the #1 priority for students, teachers and parents. To ensure that science experiments and classroom activities are safe, positive learning experiences, a list of rules has been developed and provided to you in this science safety contract. These rules must be followed at all times. This must be signed by both you and a parent or guardian before you can participate in the laboratory.

1. Perform the experiments as directed. Do not do anything which is not part of an approved experimental procedure. Follow all instructions given by your teacher or adult supervisor.
2. Be properly prepared to do an experiment. Read the written procedures in advance and understand what you are going to do. Lack of familiarity wastes your time and is a major cause of injury. Know the hazards before you do the experiment.
3. Never work without adult supervision.
4. Wear appropriate protective equipment. A lab coat or apron and ANSI approved eye protection should be worn at all times. This will usually mean chemical splash goggles. In addition, gloves and face shields should be worn as appropriate.
5. Learn the locations and operation of emergency equipment. This includes the eyewash, safety shower, fire extinguisher, fire blanket, sinks and first aid supplies. Know what to do in case of emergency.
6. Act in a responsible manner at all times. No horseplay or fooling should occur in the lab or experimental area. Appropriate consequences, such as removal from lab area, will follow any violation of this rule.
7. Dress properly during a laboratory activity. Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing are a hazard in the laboratory. Long hair must be tied back and dangling jewelry and loose or baggy clothing must be secured. Shoes should cover the entire foot.
8. Never taste a chemical. Check odors only if instructed to do so, by gently wafting some of the vapor towards your nose with your hand. Be sure your work area is adequately ventilated for your experiment.
9. Turn off alcohol burner or other heat source whenever you are not using it. Never let it operate unattended.
10. Treat burns immediately by putting the burned area under cold water for at least 15 minutes. Cold water markedly reduces the subsequent pain and blisters.
11. Students are never permitted in the science storage rooms or preparation areas unless given specific permission by their instructor.
12. When removing an electrical plug from its socket, grasp the plug, not the electrical cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, plug or outlet.

13. Eating or drinking in the lab or experimental work area is forbidden.
14. Report all accidents, injuries, and close-calls to your teacher or adult supervisor immediately.
15. Dispose of chemicals properly. Nothing goes down the drain. Do not handle broken glass.
16. Clean up any spills immediately. This includes water. Report any spills to your teacher. List your allergies on the bottom of this page. If the experiment deals with something to which you are allergic, consult with your teacher or adult supervisor.
17. Treat all chemicals with the respect they deserve. Know the hazards before you handle the material.
18. Never take chemicals, supplies, or equipment out of the science room without the knowledge and consent of the science teacher.
19. Wash off chemicals splashed or spilled on your skin or body immediately and for 15 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing immediately. Notify your teacher or adult supervisor.
20. Keep hands away from your face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or preserved specimens.
21. Clean, rinse and wipe dry all work surfaces (lab area) and apparatus at the end of an experiment. Wash your hands at the end of each work session.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read, understand, and agree to the following science safety rules and procedures. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory/science class or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the laboratory and an office referral will follow.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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. A safety program can eliminate, prevent and correct possible hazards.

Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this student safety contract, are aware of the measures taken to insure the safety of your son/daughter in the science classroom, and will instruct your son/daughter to uphold his/her agreement to follow these rules and procedures in the laboratory.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date