

Safety in the Laboratory

The Earth Science laboratory can be a fantastic experience; however it can also be a dangerous place. The following rules are designed to protect you and keep you learning in the laboratory. Several of our activities will have potentially hazardous materials (strong acids/bases, hot plates, chemicals, etc.) Any misconduct or violation of safety guidelines will result in a zero for that activity/lab and possible expulsion from future laboratory activities. These rules must be followed in order for you to participate. Please read the following carefully with your parent(s) or guardian:

1. Carefully read instructions before performing any lab and be sure to follow directions.
2. Always move deliberately about the classroom with safety in mind.
3. Perform laboratory work only when your teacher is present.
4. Report all accidents to your teacher no matter how small.
5. Know where the eye wash, chemical shower, fire blanket, and fire extinguisher are located. Know how to use them *only in case of an emergency*.
6. Wear safety goggles when requested by the teacher. Confine long hair and loose clothing. Wear shoes instead of sandals.
7. Never leave a Bunsen burner or hot plate unattended.
8. Be extremely careful when handling hot glassware or ceramics.
9. View test tube contents from the side. Never look down into the test tube. Point the open end of test tubes away from yourself and others.
10. To smell the contents of a container, use a "wafting" action of the hand as demonstrated by your teacher.
11. Do not eat or drink during laboratory activities.
12. In case of a minor heat burn or chemical burn, place under cold, running water.
13. If chemicals get in eyes, go immediately to the eye wash and rinse for 10-15 minutes. Of course, have someone notify the teacher immediately.
14. Keep lab tables clear of back packs, books, clothes, etc.
15. Before leaving the laboratory, be sure to clean your station and return all equipment to their designated locations. Follow your teacher's instructions for discarding chemicals.
16. Wash your hands thoroughly at the end of the laboratory period.
17. If you do not know what to do in a certain situation, ask.