

'24-'25 DSST Student Lab Safety Contract

Introduction: The purpose of this Lab Safety Contract is to ensure that students and their families know what is required for a safe and effective learning environment in our science laboratories and classrooms. This contract outlines the essential safety procedures that every student must follow to prevent accidents and injuries. Students and their families must agree that students will comply with the procedures listed below for the safety of all students and faculty. By signing this contract, students acknowledge their responsibility to understand and comply with all safety procedures and to contribute actively to a culture of safety within science labs and classrooms.

General Lab Safety Procedures:

- Read the entire procedure before you begin and follow all of your teacher's instructions
- Horseplay, carelessness, or rough behavior will not be tolerated in the lab at any time
- Eating, drinking, and applying cosmetics in the lab are forbidden
- Unauthorized experiments are never allowed; follow your teacher's directions at all times
- Any accident, minor or serious, must be reported to the teacher immediately
- Know the location and use of all safety equipment in the lab, including: goggles, aprons, eye wash, fire blanket, fire extinguisher, safety shower, and/or chemical spill kit
- Identify the evacuation routes from each room and the procedure for getting help in an emergency
- Keep your area neat and clean; dispose of trash according to your teacher's directions
- Wash your hands at the end of each lab or whenever substances touch your skin

Clothing and Safety Equipment:

- Baggy clothes, loose jewelry, and long hair must be neatly secured while performing any experiment.
- Closed toed shoes must be worn when performing or observing a lab (no crocs)
- Contact lenses are not recommended when chemicals are in use
- Appropriate safety goggles or glasses must be worn when anyone in the lab is working with:
 - any form of heat
 - projectiles
 - sharp objects or glass
 - chemicals (even household types)
 - when determined by the teacher

Heat and Fire:

- Monitor heat sources 100% of the time; never leave a heat source unattended; unplug when not in use
- Stay focused and pay attention when working with heat or fire
- Make sure heated items are pointed away from yourself and others
- Use tongs or heat-resistant gloves when handling hot equipment; hot glassware looks the same as cold glassware
- Keep flammable materials away from heat and flames
- Know how to use a fire extinguisher and fire blanket

Tools:

- Use the appropriate tool designed for the task
- Do not use and report to the teacher any tools that are broken/worn out
- Do not expose glass to sudden temperature changes
- Ensure electrical equipment is properly grounded; de-energize circuits before handling
- Unplug power tools when not in use
- Check cords and plugs for damage and keep the area dry when working with electrical equipment
- Always transport sharp objects with the sharp end down; always cut away from yourself during dissection or other lab procedures
- Use proper body positions including
 - Lift heavy objects by bending at knees not back
 - Body weight above drill
 - Body in line with hand saw
- If you are unsure at any point about tool use/safety, ask your teacher

Chemicals:

- Follow lab procedure for mixing chemicals
- When using acid, always add acid last
- Dispose of chemicals according to your teacher's directions
- Disinfect work surfaces and tools after handling biological materials
- Use proper ventilations when working with substances that produce fumes
- Never remove chemicals, equipment, or specimens from the lab room without your teacher's permission
- Chemicals splashed on the skin or eyes should be **flushed with water for a minimum of 15 minutes**

