GENERAL LAB SAFETY RULES

Now that you are in science class, you are probably anxious to work in the lab. But, before you begin, it is important to know the safety methods that must be used to prevent accidents. There are laws and rules that all people, even your teacher, must follow while working in the lab. These laws have been made by your state and county governments to protect science students from both small and large injuries. Read the laws in the next section and learn them. A test will be given to determine how ready you are to participate in lab.

DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD SAFETY RULES

GENERAL:

Students are REQUIRED to wear safety devices and protective clothing and will take such safeguards as are necessary to reduce or eliminate accidents and injuries. REFUSAL OR FAILURE by a student to use or wear such devices, or protective or equipment, shall be grounds for appropriate disciplinary action INCLUDING PROHIBITING THEM FROM PARTTCIPATTON IN CLASS ACTIVITIES.

EYE PROTECTION DEVICES:

Florida Statute 232.45 REQUIRES eye protection devices to be worn by students, teachers, and visitors when the individual is involved in an activity likely to cause injury to the eyes.

HAIR PROTECTION:

In educational activities involving flame, student's hair is to be appropriately BANDED, TIED, or COVERED to protect the hair from catching fire.

FOOT PROTECTION:

Bare feet, SANDALS, or footwear EXPOSING THE FEET, are not permissible during activities requiring foot protection, such as CHEMICAL LABORATORY WORK.

GENERAL LABORATORY SAFETY METHODS

The experiments that you will do in science will depend on the type of science that you are studying at the time. These are some general safety rules which apply to all science classes at one time or another. It is important for you to understand that many pieces of science equipment and types of chemicals used in a lab can hurt YOU or ANOTHER STUDENT if proper use of these materials is not learned.

The following list contains many important safety rules, but your teacher may often give you more specific rules before beginning a lab. These should ALWAYS be followed when working in the lab.

1. Horseplay in the lab can cause a serious accident before you realize what is happening, so you MUST have good behavior at all times.

2. While it is impossible to be completely silent when working in the lab. The noise level must not get so loud that you can't hear any directions that your teacher gives you.

3. Never mix chemicals just to see what happens. Never experiment on your own. Your teacher will give the proper directions for the use of chemicals in each lab.

4. Most lab equipment and supplies are very expensive, so it is important that you learn their proper use and care.

5. Always use safety goggles when working with a flame, strong chemicals, or hot objects or chemicals. Prescription safety glasses do NOT protect the eyes enough, so goggles must be warn over the glasses.

6. Never smell chemicals directly. Your teacher will demonstrate a wafting motion that is to be used to identify odors.

7. NEVER taste chemicals in the lab.

8. You should know the location of safety equipment, such as the fire extinguisher, eye wash fountain, and safety shower. Inform your teacher of an accident NO MATTER HOW SMALL ****** IMMEDIATELY.

9. You must wear shoes that protect your feet completely. No open-toe or open-heeled shoes may be worn in the lab. These types of shoes expose parts of the feet which may be harmed by the accidental spillage of chemicals or hot liquids.

10. Lab equipment, ESPECIALLY GLASSWARE, remains hot for a long time after removing it from a hotplate or flame, so you should use safety materials like tongs or hot pad gloves to pick up the equipment after it has been heated

11. Long-hair MUST be tied behind the head. This is to prevent accidentally tossing the hair into-a flame. Hair will burn quickly.

12. It is dangerous to eat or drink from any of the lab equipment. There may be residue of chemicals in the equipment that could hurt you. NEVER EAT OR DRINK INTHE LAB.

13. After a lab is completed, you must carefully clean the equipment and the work area so that the next group can begin to work without cleaning after you. THE LAB IS NOT OVER UNTIL THE LAB HAS BEEN CLEANED.