

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

This letter is to let you know that the science faculty considers student SAFETY our number one concern. It outlines some of the precautions that the teachers will take and it will make you aware of some of the rules that students are required to follow in all laboratory situations. Please read, sign and return the bottom of this letter by September 2nd.

As you are undoubtedly aware, many chemicals and chemical compounds are potentially hazardous ...whether they are found in the home, at work, or in the science laboratory. The students will be specifically informed about potential hazards involved with each lab exercise, and they will be expected to follow the teacher's instructions. Students need to develop a healthy respect for chemicals and potential hazards, whether they are associated with the science laboratory or their every-day life. They should not have a fear of laboratory activities, only a sensitized regard for potential hazards. The AHS staff continually reviews the county's chemical hygiene plan and our chemical inventory in a continuing effort to maintain a safe learning environment. The science faculty is committed to the principle that laboratory experiences will be safe for every student.

Our laboratories are equipped with eyewashes, fire extinguishers, and fire blankets. In addition, chemistry labs have safety showers and kits to clean up chemical spills. Students are required to wear safety goggles during the majority of laboratory activities involving chemicals, heat sources, grinding, or glassware. Each classroom is equipped with a set of goggles. These goggles are sterilized between classes.

Contact lenses are of particular concern when working with some chemicals. Some fumes that are otherwise not considered dangerous can get under the lens and cause eye irritation. Soft contacts may react with some fumes, causing damage to the eye. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO INFORM THE TEACHER THAT HE/SHE IS WEARING CONTACT LENSES.** Students wearing contact lenses will be required to wear un-vented goggles ...These should provide adequate protection for their high school laboratory experiences. If conditions are such that the teacher, in his/her professional opinion, considers a lab to be a hazard to students wearing contact lenses, the students will be asked to remove the lenses. If removal is not possible, the teacher may assign an alternate laboratory activity or make other equitable arrangements.

Teachers have been instructed to write up a "disciplinary referral" on all safety violations, no matter how minor. Depending upon the circumstances, the teacher may also remove the student from the lab and/or assign a grade of "zero" for the exercise. Repeated or severe offenses will result in a parent conference prior to the student's participation in additional laboratory activities. Science field trips are classified as laboratory activities and have unique safety requirements, which will be detailed by the teacher in the parental permission form.

Students who, through unauthorized use or misuse, break laboratory equipment will be held financially responsible for the replacement or repair of the damaged equipment.

**The following laboratory rules will be in force in all laboratory situations. Some teachers may impose additional or more restrictive regulations.**

1	Students are required to wear goggles any time they are working with glassware, chemicals, heat or materials under pressure.
2	No food, drink or gum will be allowed in the laboratory.
3	Do not rub your eyes or place things in your mouth (e.g. fingers/pencils).
4	Never smell chemicals directly, use your hand to "waft" vapors towards your nose.
5	Do not dispose of solids in the sink - particularly organic matter.
6	No animals are to be brought to school without the WRITTEN approval of the Department Chair.
7	Dispose of all broken glass in the receptacle labeled "Broken Glass".
8	Do not play with safety equipment.
9	All workstations are to be kept neat and orderly.
10	Do not apply cosmetics in the laboratory.
11	Clean up ALL spills according to safety protocols.
12	Do not heat chipped or cracked glassware.
13	Do not wear open-toed shoes, e.g. flip-flops, sandals, etc., when working outside the building.

14	Always know the location & use of safety materials, and be prepared to use them in an emergency.
15	Report all injuries/accidents, no matter how slight, to the teacher.
16	No running or "horse-play" (including squirting water).
17	Loose clothing can be dangerous, knocking over materials & spilling chemicals (especially sleeves).
18	Long hair should be tied back when working with chemicals or an open flame.
19	Never use flammable liquids near any source of ignition.
20	Use extreme caution when handling items that have been heated.
21	No unauthorized "experiments" will be tolerated.
22	Backpacks are not allowed in the laboratory area.
23	Never taste any chemicals.
24	Wash your hands before leaving the laboratory.
25	No animals are to be transported on a school bus.

***SAFETY VIOLATIONS ARE VERY SERIOUS & CANNOT BE TOLERATED.***

----- Tear here and turn in the bottom portion -----

I/we have read and understand the school's position regarding laboratory safety.

**2014-15**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Put a check mark in this box if your student wears contacts.

***Read, sign and return this to your science teacher by September 2, 2014.***

This form must be returned before participating in applicable laboratory activities.