

August 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of the safety requirements in our science classes this year. On the reverse side of this letter is a listing of safety guidelines and rules. These rules have been discussed with your child. It is my hope that by following these rules your child and others in the class will have a safe, productive, and enjoyable learning experience.

Please review these safety rules and guidelines with your child. Your signature and the return of the acknowledgment is required for their participation in in-school and out-of-school science activities. Your child also needs to sign this form. This will provide me with a written record that you have both been made aware of the safety regulations in our classroom and lab.

The bottom portion will be turned in to me. The top portion will be taped or glued onto the inside of your child's science notebook for their reference (we will do this in class so that they all have it in the same location).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school or via e-mail. Your time, support, and cooperation in this matter are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Hansen
6th Grade Science Educator
mhansen@malden.mec.edu



Linden School 6th Grade Science Safety Contract

Science is a hands-on class which should be fun and enjoyable. However, some science activities have potential hazards. Sometimes we may use equipment and chemicals that may be dangerous if not handled properly. Safety in and out of the science classroom is an important part of the scientific process. To ensure safety during our activities, a list of rules has been developed and is called the Science Safety Contract. These rules *must* be followed. Additional safety instructions may be given for individual activities. No student will be allowed to participate in science activities until this contract has been signed by both the student and a parent or guardian.

1. Behave in a responsible manner in the classroom or in other locations when participating in science related activities. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks will not be tolerated.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand the instructions, ask Mr. Hansen for clarification.
3. Do not touch any equipment, supplies, or other material in the science room or being used for an out-of-school activity without permission from Mr. Hansen.
4. Perform only authorized experiments. Do not conduct any experiments when the teacher is out of the room.
5. Never eat, drink, or taste anything in the science room unless given specific permission to do so by Mr. Hansen.
6. Keep hands away from your face, eyes, and mouth when working with chemicals. Assume that all materials are toxic. Wash hands with soap and water before leaving the science room.
7. Wear safety goggles when instructed. Never remove goggles during an experiment.
8. Keep work areas and the room neat and clean. Leave your work area *at least* as clean and tidy as how you found it.
9. Report any accident, injury, or hazardous condition (such as broken equipment) to Mr. Hansen immediately.
10. Consider *all* chemicals used in the science room to be dangerous.
11. Always carry a microscope with both hands: one on the arm, one on the base.
12. Never open storage cabinets or enter the back storage room without permission from Mr. Hansen or another teacher.
13. Do not remove any equipment, supplies, or chemicals from the science room without permission.
14. Handle glassware with care. Never pick up hot or broken glassware with your bare hands. Assume all glassware is hot.
15. Use extreme caution when using hot plates. Do not leave a hot plate running unattended.
16. Dress properly when conducting activities in the lab. Long hair must be pulled back, no jewelry should be dangling, no clothing should be loose. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
17. Know where the safety equipment is and how to use it. Know where the exits are located and what to do in case of an emergency or fire drill.

----- cut here and return the bottom section, attach the top portion in your notebook-----

I, _____, (student's name) have read and understand the safety rules. I agree to follow them to ensure not only my safety but the safety of others in the science classroom. I also agree to follow the general rules of appropriate behavior for a classroom in order to avoid accidents and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone. I understand that if I do not follow all the rules and safety precautions, I will not be allowed to participate in science activities and will receive a failing grade for the ones I miss.

Student Signature

Date

I have read this Science Safety Contract and reviewed it with my child. I understand that if he or she fails to follow these rules, he or she will not be allowed to participate in science activities.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date