

CHEMISTRY

Please go over the safety and laboratory procedures with your child before he or she attends class.

GENERAL COMMENTS TO PARENTS:

This chemistry course offers a well-supervised environment for your child to learn some basic principles of scientific investigation. The exercises allow each student to perform a series of simple experiments at his/her own pace. At times the student will work with potentially harmful compounds (acids and bases), but most of the hazards arise from improper or unauthorized handling of these compounds. As long as your child follows the directions and is responsive to the supervision provided, there is very little potential for harm. Improper behavior such as disobedience or unauthorized experimentation can put your child and all the others in class at risk, and will not be tolerated.

If you wish to visit your child during lab, please check in with the instructor. Accidents in laboratories are caused by improper or careless procedures. Laboratory classes are designed to teach students the proper techniques of chemistry, and this includes habits of safety. Observance of precautions will avoid accidents.

LABORATORY SAFETY TIPS AND PROCEDURES

AVOID CUTS AND LACERATIONS

1. Protect your hands with a towel when inserting either glass tubing or thermometers into stoppers or thermometer adapters.
2. Lubricate stoppers or adapters with water or glycerin before inserting glass tubing or thermometers. Report any cuts to the instructor or volunteer so that the injury may receive proper attention.

PROTECT YOUR EYES

1. Safety goggles will be worn in the laboratory any time there is laboratory work in progress by any student. Remember your neighbor could have an accident even though you are not doing lab work. Failure to comply with this precaution could result in the suspension of laboratory privileges.
2. Avoid looking into the mouth of any reaction vessel in which a reaction is in process.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. If chemicals are spilled on the skin or eyes, immediately flush the skin or eyes with running water for at least 15 minutes and call for the instructor or a volunteer. If chemicals are spilled on the clothes, removed them and flush the skin with water.
2. Report any fire to the lab instructor, regardless of how minor.
3. Report any burns to the lab instructor so that proper treatment may be administered.
4. Keep gas and water valves closed except when in use.
5. Be neat in your work. If you spill something, clean it up. If liquids drip down the side of a bottle while pouring, wash the bottle off. Clean your bench space at the end of each lab period. Each lab period two students will be asked to clean the community areas of the lab.
6. EATING and DRINKING are not allowed in the laboratory.
7. If any chemical is spilled or thermometer broken, please let your instructor know so he or she can clean it up immediately.