Napier Boys' High School Student Science Laboratory Safety Code of Conduct

Science laboratory classes include hands-on laboratory investigations. Some secondary-level lab activities involve the use of chemicals or equipment that may pose a health or safety danger to both students and teachers if not handled properly.

To ensure a safe and healthy environment in our classrooms and laboratories, the following Student Laboratory Code of Conduct has been developed.

Students must adhere to these rules and acceptable behaviours to make these areas safe for ALL students and staff.

General Guideline:

1. Students may not work in the laboratory without a certified science instructor present.
2. Students should always behave in a mature and responsible manner in the laboratory or wherever chemicals are stored or handled. All inappropriate behaviour is especially prohibited. You are working in a lab environment, act like a professional scientist.
3. No roaming during a lab; remain at your assigned lab area. Students must work with their designated lab partner(s), unless otherwise instructed by the supervising teacher.
4. Students must follow all verbal and written instructions carefully and accurately. If you are unsure of the procedure, ask your teacher for help before proceeding.
5. Students should not touch any equipment or chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so.
6. Students must NEVER eat, drink or chew gum in the laboratory. Wash hands thoroughly after participating in any laboratory activities.
7. No unauthorised experimentation is allowed. Students must perform only those experiments authorised by the teacher.
8. Students will receive training related to the locations and operating procedures for all applicable laboratory safety equipment and personal protective equipment. This includes eye wash areas, safety showers, fire extinguishers, fire blankets, first aid supplies and master shutoffs for gas, water and electricity.

Handling Chemicals and Equipment:

1. Proper disposal of laboratory waste is essential. Students must properly dispose of all chemical waste as directed.
2. Students must never enter the science storage rooms or preparation areas unless accompanied by a teacher or by a school employee.
3. Students must wear appropriate personal apparel always including covered shoes in the laboratory and also avoid wearing loose or flammable clothing. Long hair must be tied back.
4. Students must wear approved eye protection whenever chemicals, heat or glassware are used by either the teacher or students in the laboratory, or when instructed to.
5. Students must report any incident (including all spills, breakages or other releases of hazardous materials) to the instructor immediately; no matter how insignificant it may appear. This includes all injuries such as cuts, burns or other signs of physical harm.
6. Students must never remove chemicals, equipment, specimens, specimen parts or supplies from the laboratory area.
7. Students must carefully examine all equipment before each use and report any broken or defective equipment to the teacher immediately.

Heating Substances:

1. Students must never reach over an exposed flame or hot plate or leave a flame or hot plate unattended.
2. Students must never point a test tube or reaction vessel of any type toward another person.