Science Department Mission Statement

Washington Township High School

The faculty of the Science Department at Washington Township High School is committed to connecting with every student. In an environment of dedication, hard work, honesty and integrity the students will develop the skills of observation, communication, note taking, independent study, critical thinking and skepticism.

Achievement of the mission statement goal will be guided by the following:

- It is the goal of WTHS science teachers to cultivate a positive approach to the study of science. We know that science is integral to thousands of careers and life itself. A quality basic understanding of science is key to survival in modern society.

- Adaptations to curriculum are done continuously. These changes are geared to making the curriculum more relevant to modern society.

- The Science Department will take the lead in terms of curriculum rigor and innovation. Learning will not be limited to the traditional lecture format. The use of technology will be extensive.

- Student learning will be measured in large part by assessments designed in line with the New Jersey High School Redesign Initiative.

- Traditional homework and class work assignments are viewed as independent study tools.

- Success can be obtained through a collaborative effort between teachers, parents and students. Everyone plays an active role in a successful year of science study.

Thank you for joining us in this endeavor.

“Today we Prepare; Tomorrow we Prosper”

Please sign and return to teacher.*

Student Name __________________________ Signature ______________________

Parent/Guardian Name __________________________ [Print]

Parent/Guardian Signature __________________________

*By signing this form, we also acknowledge that we have read and understand the course requirements for Mrs. Hornibrook’s AP Physics 1 class.
Science Department Academic Integrity Statement

Washington Township Secondary Schools

The faculty of the Washington Township Secondary Science Department is committed to connecting with every student. In an environment of dedication, hard work, honesty and integrity the students will develop the skills of observation, communication, note taking, independent study, critical thinking and skepticism.

Academic Integrity is paramount to the achievement of the mission statement. The Science Department at Washington Township Secondary Schools defines academic integrity as follows:

Honesty – Honor – Truthfulness → all students are expected to pursue their science education with a commitment to these qualities. To meet these expectations student should understand that:

* **Cheating Is**
  - Anything that does not involve you preparing or doing the work yourself
  - Copying homework, classwork or labwork
  - Discussing assessment materials between class periods
  - Unauthorized materials present during assessments
  - Talking during assessments
  - Electronic devices present during assessments

* **Independent Work**
  - Work completed entirely by the student, which includes: Tests, Quizzes, Projects, Homework, Classwork and Labwork

* **Collaborative Work**
  - Students work together to achieve an understanding of the material, not simply share completed sections of material

* **Group or Lab Work**
  - Large tasks may be divided between individuals, as long as the overall goal is an understanding of material by all members of the group

Violation of the Science Department Academic Integrity Statement will result in a zero for the assignment or assessment in question.

Please sign and return to teacher.

Student Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________

Parent/Guardian Name ___________________________ Signature ___________________________

Notebook Copy
Laboratory Safety Contract

In order to prepare for a safe year in the laboratory, read over the following safety rules. Make sure you understand each rule. If you do not, ask your teacher to explain any rules you are unsure of. When you are satisfied that you understand all of the rules on this list, sign and date the contract in the place provided. Signing this contract tells your teacher that you are aware of the rules of the laboratory.

1. Read all directions for an experiment thoroughly, and make sure you understand them **before you begin the experiment.**
2. NEVER perform activities that are not authorized by your teacher.
3. Wear safety goggles and a laboratory apron/coat during experiments involving chemicals or flames.
4. Contact lenses should **not** be worn in lab. They trap chemical fumes behind them and can damage your eyes.
5. Dress appropriately for lab. This includes tying back long hair, avoiding loose, dangling jewelry and bulky clothing and wearing appropriate footwear (no open toed shoes or sandals).
6. Do not chew gum, eat or drink in the laboratory. Never taste or smell any substance unless directed specifically by the teacher to do so.
7. Take extreme care not to spill any material in the laboratory. Notify your teacher immediately if any chemicals are accidentally spilled.
8. Report any accident, injury or incorrect procedure to the teacher immediately.
9. Do not leave a lighted burner unattended.
10. Never reach across a flame.
11. When heating a liquid in a test tube, turn the mouth of the test tube away from yourself and others.
12. Never heat liquid in a closed container. The expanding gasses can blow the container apart, injuring you or others.
13. Allow hot glassware time to cool before attempting to touch it. Be aware…hot glassware looks the same as cool glassware!
14. Do not use chipped or broken glassware. Discard it according to your teacher’s instructions.
15. Dispose of all chemicals as instructed by your teacher. To avoid contamination, never return chemicals to their original containers.
16. Rinse any acids off your skin or clothing with water. Immediately notify your teacher of any acid spill.
17. Wash your hands after every experiment.
18. Leave your work area clean at the end of each laboratory period. Thoroughly clean and store all materials.
19. Students will be financially responsible for breakage of equipment at a cost determined by the science department.

I have read and understand the laboratory safety rules listed above, and I agree to abide by them at all times. I understand that failure to follow them will result in a loss of credit for the experiment(s) and possible removal from the lab portion of the course.

X ____________________________
Student’s Signature

Date

X ____________________________
Parent’s Signature

Date
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