

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I am sending you this letter so that you can make an informed decision about letting your child wear contact lenses while performing chemistry experiments at CHS. Most university and industrial labs prohibit the wearing of contact lenses in their labs.

They base this on the fact that when a chemical goes into someone's eye, that chemical is drawn under the contact lens where it becomes trapped. The majority of that chemical will remain trapped even while rinsing the eye with water. The contact lens must be removed in order to rinse the eye properly and stop any further damage. Many caustic chemicals will cause irreversible damage to the eye. The amount of damage usually depends on how long the chemical is in contact with the eye. The time it takes to remove the contact lens may be the difference between blindness and total recovery. When injury occurs to the eye the eyelids may clamp shut making it impossible to remove the contacts without help.

Many contact lenses are gas permeable. This is a concern because many chemicals produce vapors. Those vapors can pass through the contact lens and be absorbed by the fluid on the surface of the eye. Those vapors can cause irritation and in some cases damage to the eye. While everyone at CHS is required to wear splash resistant safety goggles whenever chemicals, heat, or glassware is being used, these goggles do not provide protection against vapors.

If you decide to allow your child to wear contact lenses during labs:

1. Instruct your child to immediately obtain help to remove the contact lenses should they get a chemical in their eye and are unable to remove the contact lenses themselves.
2. Instruct your child to remove and clean contact lenses after every lab or demonstration where chemicals are involved.
3. Instruct your child to immediately remove and clean or throw away contact lenses if there is any sign of eye irritation such as redness, tearing, burning/itching of the eyes, pain in the eyes, headache etc...

If you decide **not** to allow your child to wear contact lenses during labs:

Instruct your child to remove their contact lenses before performing or observing any experiments.

It will be the responsibility of your child to follow your decision.

Please check the appropriate box below, sign, and have your child return this form to Mr. Strickland.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Mr. Strickland

- My child does not wear contact lenses.
- I will instruct my child not to wear contact lenses while working in the lab.
- I understand the increased risk of eye damage that may come from wearing contact lenses in a chemistry laboratory and I give permission for my child to wear contact lenses during chemical experiments.

Student's Name

Guardian's Signature

24-Aug-12

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