



Sewing Lab Safety Contract

FACS classes require hands-on learning in the sewing lab. To ensure a safe experience, the following are general rules students must abide by in order to participate in the sewing lab. **In addition to the safety procedures covered in class, these guidelines must be followed at all times.**

Pressing Equipment

- Visually inspect the iron cord prior to use. Never operate an iron if a cord is frayed/cut.
- Keep the iron on the heel-end when not pressing.
- Follow the teacher's instructions when filling and using water in the iron.
- Make sure the temperature selector is on the correct setting for your fabric.
- Allow iron to preheat for 2 minutes. Never test the iron with a finger—use a piece of scrap fabric from your project to test the proper temperature.
- Only one person should be at the pressing table at a time.
- When finished, set the iron on its heel, turn off, and unplug by handle on the plug, never the cord.

Pins and Needles

- Under Universal Precautions, pins or needles found in the sewing lab without ownership must be treated as contaminated. An "orphan pin" is defined as pins or needles found in the sewing lab which are NOT under the direct control of a student or teacher. Orphan pins or needles are to be handled by the teacher only with a designated brush and dust pan and immediately deposited into the sharps container. Reusable machine needles are to be disinfected according to the AACPS Exposure Control Plan.
- Students are responsible for keeping track of pins and needles while in their immediate use.
- For storage of pins/needles, always use a personal pin cushion instead of placing pins/needles in your mouth, on garments, desks, or sewing tables.
- Use a thimble for protection when hand sewing.

Scissors and Shears

- Always pass scissors/shears closed with the handle towards the person to whom you are giving them.
- When not in use, scissors/shears should always remain closed.
- Avoid making gestures/pointing with scissors/shears.
- Walk when carrying equipment, especially scissors/shears with handle pointed up and blades down.

Sewing Machines

- Visually inspect the sewing machine cord prior to use. Never operate a sewing machine if a cord is frayed/cut or if a needle is bent, broken, or missing.
- Check all dials and settings before beginning to sew. Test machine on scrap fabric before beginning to sew.
- Operate the machine at a slow, safe speed. Violators will sew their project by hand.
- Keep fingers at a safe distance from the needle and the presser foot.
- Keep eyes on the needle; do not talk to others while you are sewing.
- Wait until the person sewing is finished before talking to them.
- Keep your foot off the foot control when not actually sewing.
- Do not sew over pins, pull them out as you go to prevent the needle from hitting them.
- Any machine needle that pierces skin shall be taken out of service until proper decontamination has been conducted.
- At the end of the class, make sure the machine is free of threads and fabric and left the way your teacher has requested.

I Understand The Following...

- I must immediately report any accidents and skin piercing (blood or no blood) to the teacher.
- Using or handling any materials in the sewing lab for anything other than their intended purpose is unacceptable behavior and will result in disciplinary action.
- It is mandatory that cell phones be turned off and kept away during sewing because of the safety risk of causing a distraction. Pictures of the final product may be taken with permission from your teacher.
- Any response to the exposure to blood or other bodily fluids shall reference and follow the AACPS Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan located in the main office of the school and on the AACPS intranet Insurance and Safety Management Webpage. For further information, please contact AACPS Safety Specialist, Kenneth Best, at 410-222-5180.
- By not following the above procedures I will be at risk for loss of sewing privileges.
- This safety agreement must be signed by myself and a parent/guardian in order to begin sewing.

Signatures below indicate the student and parent/guardian have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of this contract. This contract must be signed by the parent/guardian and student in order for the student to begin sewing.

Please make a copy of this contract for your own records as the instructor will keep the original.

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date