# School-Home Letter

## Vocabulary

**area** The measure of the number of unit squares needed to cover a surface

**base,** *b* A polygon's side

**formula** A set of symbols that expresses a mathematical rule

**height,** *h* The measure of a perpendicular from the base to the top of a two-dimensional shape

**perimeter** The distance around a shape

**square unit** A unit of area with dimensions of 1 unit $\times$ 1 unit

*The Multilingual Glossary is available online.*

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about perimeter and area. We will use formulas to find the perimeter and area of a rectangle. We will also investigate rectangles that have the same area but different perimeters, and rectangles that have the same perimeter but different areas.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice with finding perimeters, finding areas, and using a perimeter or area to find the measure of one side of a rectangle.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to use a formula to find the area of a rectangle.

### TIPS

## Base and Height

Remember that any side of a rectangle could be the base. Depending upon the side labeled as the base, the perpendicular side to that base is the height. In the model, the base could have been identified as 6 feet and the height as 9 feet. Because of the Commutative Property of Multiplication, the area does not change.

## Model Use a Formula to Find Area

This is how we will use a formula to find the area of a rectangle.

**Step 1**

Identify the base and the height of the rectangle.

6 ft

9 ft
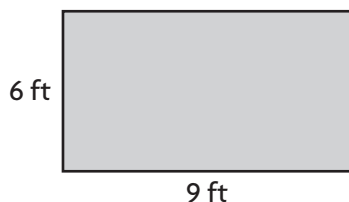
base = 9 feet

height = 6 feet

**Step 2**

Use the formula
$A = b \times h$
to find the area of the rectangle.

$A = 9 \times 6$
$\phantom{A} = 54$

The area is 54 square feet.

## Appropriate Units

Remember to use the correct *square* units when expressing the area of a shape. A measure of 54 feet would simply be a measure of length, whereas a measure of 54 *square* feet is a measure of area.