CHAPTER 10

School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning how to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers. First, we will use models to find the sums or the differences. Then we will record equations to match our models. Finally, we will add and subtract without using models.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice adding and subtracting fractions with and without models.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to add fractions using fraction strips.

Vocabulary

denominator The number in a fraction that tells how many equal parts are in the whole or in the group

fraction A number that names a part of a whole or part of a group

mixed number A number represented by a whole number and a fraction

numerator The number in a fraction that tells how many parts of the whole or group are being considered

unit fraction A fraction that has a numerator of 1

The Multilingual Glossary is available online.

TIPS

Renaming as a Mixed Number

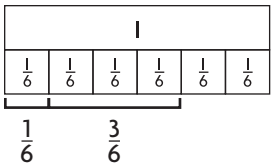
When the numerator is greater than the denominator, you can rename the sum or the difference as a mixed number.

$$\frac{9}{8} = \frac{8}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$$
$$= 1 + \frac{1}{8}$$
$$= 1\frac{1}{8}$$

Model Add Fractions Using Models

This is how we will be adding fractions using fraction strips.

Model $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{3}{6}$.



Step 1

Each section represents 1 sixth. How many sixths are there in all?

4 sixths

Step 2

Write the number of sixths as a fraction.

4 sixths $= \frac{4}{6}$

$\frac{1}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{4}{6}$

Activity

Have your child use measuring cups to practice addition and subtraction of fractions. For example, to model $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{4}$, have your child use rice to fill one measuring cup to the $\frac{1}{4}$-cup mark and another measuring cup to the $\frac{3}{4}$-cup mark. Then ask your child to combine the amounts to find the sum, $\frac{4}{4}$, or 1 whole cup.