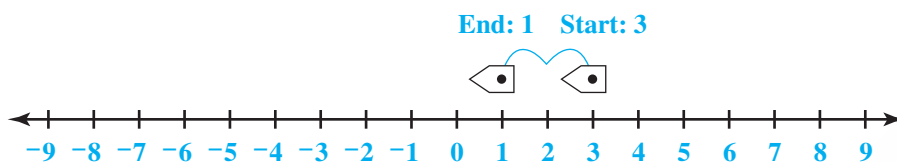


Family Letter

Dear Student and Family Members,

In Chapter 4, our class will be working with negative numbers. We will learn how to work with numbers that have negative signs that appear in sums, differences, products, quotients, exponents, and graphs.

We will use the number line to calculate sums and differences involving negative numbers. For example, to add $3 + (-2)$, you begin by placing a pointer, point up, on 3. Because the number to be added is negative, you point the pointer in the negative direction. Since the operation is addition, you move the pointer forward (the same direction the tip is pointing) 2 places to get the result, 1.



Once we are comfortable adding and subtracting negative numbers, we will learn how to multiply and divide negative numbers. We will then explore graphing in four quadrants and find distances between points on a coordinate grid. We will also review exponents and use the stretching and shrinking machines as a way to think about negative exponents.

Vocabulary Along the way, we'll be learning about two new vocabulary terms:

distance formula

quadrant

What can you do at home?

During the next few weeks, your student may show interest in different ways that negative numbers are used in the world outside of school. You might help them think about common occurrences of negative numbers—elevations below sea level, the national debt, temperatures below zero, or balances of over-drawn bank accounts.

