

Family Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

One of the most frustrating things for young mathematics students is that they often do not see how what they learn in class will be useful to them in the real world. This math class will make every effort to relate topics we learn in the classroom to the world outside the classroom.

In **Chapter 1, Decimal Patterns and Algebra**, your child will be learning about powers and exponents, the order of operations, variables and expressions, properties, sequences, the Metric System, and scientific notation. In the study of this chapter, your child will complete a variety of daily classroom assignments and activities and possibly produce a chapter project.

By signing this letter and returning it with your child, you agree to encourage your child by getting involved. Enclosed is an activity you can do with your child that also relates the math we will be learning in Chapter 1 to the real world. You may also wish to log on to the Online Study Tools for self-check quizzes, Parent and Student Study Guide pages, and other study help at www.msmath2.net. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at school.

Sincerely,

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Family Activity

Sequences

Think of any number between 1 and 10. What is your number? _____

1. Add seven to your number. What is the result? _____
2. Add seven to your new number. What is the result? _____
3. Keep adding seven to each number until you have five numbers. Write those numbers below.
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____

Order of Operations

Think of any number greater than five. What is your number? _____

4. Multiply your number by ten. What is the result? _____
5. Add sixteen to your new number. What is the result? _____
6. Divide your new number by two. What is the result? _____
7. Subtract three from your new number. What is the result? _____
8. Square your new number. What is the final number? _____

If you performed the above five operations in a different order, would you get the same final answer or a different answer? Try it below.

Begin with your original number. What is your number? _____

9. Add sixteen to your number. What is the result? _____
10. Divide your new number by two. What is the result? _____
11. Square your new number. What is the result? _____
12. Multiply your new number by ten. What is the result? _____
13. Subtract three from your new number. What is the final number? _____
14. Compare your answers to Exercise 8 and Exercise 13. Did you get the same final answer or a different final answer?
15. Have a family member choose a different number from yours, and perform Exercises 4–13. How do these results compare to yours?
16. Does the order in which you perform operations make a difference in what your final answer will be?