

## Family Letter

### Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are often overwhelmed with large amounts of data, but organizing data into tables and graphs can help us make sense of it all. Once the data are organized, we can identify patterns and make predictions. We can then make reasonable decisions based on the information we see. Knowing how to correctly interpret the statistics can help keep us from making incorrect decisions based on the data.

In **Chapter 2, Statistics: Analyzing Data**, your child will learn several different ways to describe, analyze, and interpret data. Your child will learn about frequency tables, line plots, measures of central tendency, stem-and-leaf plots, box-and-whisker plots, bar graphs, and histograms. 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 2 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](http://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

### Making Predictions

Work with a family member to answer the following questions.

Consult a newspaper, search the Internet, or watch a news program to gather the necessary information.

1. Construct a graph that shows the closing level of the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) for the last five weekdays. Predict the closing number for the DJIA on the next weekday.
2. Construct a graph that shows the anticipated low temperatures for the next five days. Predict the low temperature for the sixth day.
3. Select a favorite sports star. Research his/her career statistics and make a graph. Predict how the athlete will perform next season.

Answers will vary. Check for reasonable predictions based on the reported data.