



Family Letter for Unit 1

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about numbers from hundred billions to decimals. We will be comparing, ordering, and rounding these numbers. Also, we will practice addition and subtraction of whole numbers and learn to work with expressions and equations.

You can expect to see work that provides practice with comparing whole numbers, as well as solving problems with parentheses and unknown amounts.

Vocabulary

expression A combination of numbers, operation signs, and grouping symbols.

place value The value given to a digit because of its place, or position, in a number.

sum The answer to an addition problem.

variable A letter or a symbol that represents a number in an algebraic expression.

Comparing Numbers

Place value can be used to compare whole numbers such as 607,923 and 608,145. Align the numbers according to place value.

hundred thousands	ten thousands	one thousands	hundreds	tens	ones
6	0	7	9	2	3
6	0	8	1	4	5



Beginning at the left or the greatest place, compare the digits until you find two digits that are different. Since 7 is less than 8, the number 607,923 is less than 608,145.

Solving Problems with Unknown Amounts

Students will learn how to find values for variables by using logical reasoning. (More formal methods of solving equations will be taught later.)

If $p + 12 = 20$, then think "What number plus 12 = 20?" So $p = 8$.

Encourage your child to find large numbers in magazines or newspapers. Then ask your child to decide which is greatest and which is least.

Sincerely,



Technology

Check out *Education Place* at eduplace.com/kids/mw/ for e•Glossary, e•Word Games, test prep practice, and more.