

School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

Throughout the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about decimal division. We will also be learning how to estimate decimal quotients.

You can expect to see homework that involves division of decimals through hundredths.

Here is a sample of how your child is taught to divide decimals.

MODEL Divide Decimals

Divide. $44.8 \div 3.2$

STEP 1

Estimate.

$$45 \div 3 = 15$$

STEP 2

Make the divisor a whole number by multiplying the divisor and dividend by the same power of 10.

$$3.2 \overline{)44.8}$$

STEP 3

Divide.

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ 32 \overline{)448} \\ \underline{-32} \\ 128 \\ \underline{-128} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

So, $44.8 \div 3.2 = 14$.

Vocabulary

decimal A number with one or more digits to the right of the decimal point

dividend The number that is to be divided in a division problem

divisor The number that divides the dividend

quotient The number that results from dividing

Tips

Estimating with Decimals

When estimating, it may be helpful to round the numbers in the problem to compatible numbers. Compatible numbers are pairs of numbers that are easy to compute with mentally.

For example, to estimate $19.68 \div 4.1$, use the compatible numbers 20 and 4: $20 \div 4 = 5$.

Activity

Use trips to grocery or department stores as opportunities to practice decimal division. For example, "Which is the better buy, the 10-ounce box of cereal for \$3.25 or the 15-ounce box for \$4.65?" Work together to write a division sentence to represent each situation. Help your child estimate the quotient and then find the exact answer.