

School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

Throughout the next few weeks, our math class will study the operations of addition and subtraction with fractions. The students will study and learn to identify and apply common denominators.

You can expect to see homework that includes adding and subtracting mixed numbers.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to estimate differences of fractions.

Vocabulary

common denominator A common multiple of two or more denominators

equivalent fractions Fractions that name the same amount or part

least common multiple The least number that is a common multiple of two or more numbers

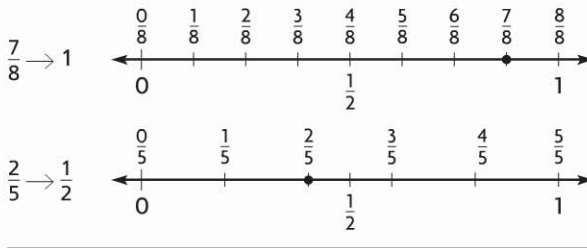
least common denominator The least common multiple of two or more denominators

MODEL Estimate Sums and Differences

This is how we will be estimating $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{2}{5}$.

STEP 1

Round each fraction to the nearest 0, $\frac{1}{2}$, or 1.



STEP 2

Subtract the rounded fractions.

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Tips

Subtraction with Renaming

If you have to regroup from the whole number in a mixed number, remember to regroup into the same fractional parts as in that number's fraction value.

Activity

Having a ruler handy helps to quickly identify benchmarks to use when estimating fraction sums and differences. Have your child estimate fraction sums and differences such as $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{2}{4}$ and $1\frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{4}$.