

# School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

Throughout the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. We will also be using area models to help understand fraction multiplication.

You can expect to see homework with real-world problems that involve multiplication with fractions and mixed numbers.

Here is a sample of how your child is taught to multiply two mixed numbers.

## Vocabulary

**denominator** The part of the fraction below the line, which tells how many equal parts there are in the whole or in a group

**mixed number** A number represented by a whole number and a fraction

**numerator** The part of a fraction above the line, which tells how many parts are being counted

**product** The answer in a multiplication problem

**simplest form** A fraction in which 1 is the only number that can divide evenly into the numerator and the denominator

### MODEL Multiply Mixed Numbers

Multiply.  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$

#### STEP 1

Write the mixed numbers as fractions.

#### STEP 2

Multiply the fractions.

#### STEP 3

Write the product as a mixed number in simplest form.

$$\begin{aligned} 1\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2} &= \frac{7}{4} \times \frac{5}{2} \\ &= \frac{7 \times 5}{4 \times 2} \\ &= \frac{35}{8} \\ &= 4\frac{3}{8} \end{aligned}$$

### Tips

#### Checking for Reasonable Answers

When a fraction is multiplied by 1, the product equals the fraction. When a fraction is multiplied by a factor greater than 1, the product will be greater than the fraction. When a fraction is multiplied by a factor less than 1, the product will be less than either factor.

## Activity

Use recipes to practice multiplication with fractions and mixed numbers. Work together to solve problems such as, "One batch of the recipe calls for  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cups of flour. How much flour would we need to make  $1\frac{1}{2}$  batches?"