

# School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

Throughout the next few weeks, our math class will be studying two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures. The students will use definitions to identify and describe characteristics of these figures. We will also learn how to find volume of rectangular prisms.

You can expect to see homework that includes identifying types of triangles and quadrilaterals.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to classify a triangle by the length of its sides.

## MODEL Classify a triangle by the length of its sides.

A triangle has side lengths 3 in., 2 in., and 3 in. What type of triangle is it?

### STEP 1

Identify how many sides are congruent.

There are 2 sides with lengths of

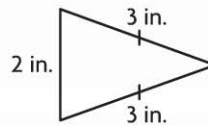
3 in.

### STEP 2

Determine the correct classification.

A triangle with two congruent sides is

isosceles.



## Vocabulary

**congruent** Having the same size and shape

**trapezoid** A quadrilateral with exactly one pair of parallel sides

**polyhedron** A three-dimensional figure with faces that are polygons

**lateral faces** Faces of a polyhedron that connect the bases

## Tips

### Congruent Figures

Congruent figures are figures that have the same size and shape.

If measurements aren't given and you need to check whether a figure has pairs of congruent sides or angles, trace the figure and cut out the tracing. Then fold the figure to see if the sides or angles match.

## Activity

Try to have students commit most of the classifications of triangles, quadrilaterals, and polyhedrons to memory. You can make a series of flash cards with the classifications on one side of the card and definitions and/or sketches of examples on the other side of the card.