

# School-Home Letter



Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning to compare and order fractions.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice comparing and ordering fractions using benchmarks, common denominators, and other methods.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to compare fractions using a common denominator.

## Model Compare Fractions Using a Common Denominator

This is one way we will be comparing fractions.

Find a common denominator. Then compare. Write  $<$ ,  $>$ , or  $=$ .

$$\frac{3}{4} \text{ and } \frac{5}{8}$$

Use 8 as a common denominator.

$$\frac{3}{4} = \frac{3 \times 2}{4 \times 2} = \frac{6}{8}$$

Think: 6 eighths is greater than 5 eighths.

$$\frac{3}{4} > \frac{5}{8}$$

## Activity

Play a card game to help your child practice comparing fractions. On several cards, write a pair of fractions and draw a circle between the fractions. Players take turns drawing a card and telling whether *greater than* ( $>$ ) or *less than* ( $<$ ) belongs in the circle.

## Vocabulary

**benchmark** A known size or amount that helps you understand a different size or amount

**common denominator** A common multiple of the denominators of two or more fractions

**greater than** One fraction is greater than another fraction if it represents a greater part of a whole.

**less than** One fraction is less than another fraction if it represents a lesser part of a whole.

**mixed number** An amount given as a whole number and a fraction

*The Multilingual Glossary is available online.*

## TIPS

### Identifying Fewer Pieces

The fewer pieces a whole is divided into, the larger the pieces are. For example, when a whole is divided into 6 equal pieces, the pieces are larger than when the same size whole is divided into 10 equal pieces. So,  $\frac{4}{6}$  is greater than ( $>$ )  $\frac{4}{10}$ .