

School-Home Letter



Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning how to add and subtract decimals. First, we will use models to explore the operations. Then, we will use regrouping to find the sums and differences. Finally, we will apply what we learn to solve problems about money.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice adding and subtracting decimals with and without models.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to add decimals.

Model Add Decimals by Regrouping

This is one example of how we will be adding decimals.

Find the sum $20.4 + 13.76$.

Add the hundredths first.

Then, add the tenths, ones, and tens.

Regroup as needed.

			1				
	2	0.	4	0			
+	1	3.	7	6			
	3	4.	1	6			

Think: $20.4 = 20.40$

$$20.40 + 13.76 = 34.16$$

Activity

Have your child add the value of many coins and then convert the amount into dollars and cents. Then take away a certain number of coins and use subtraction to find the final amount. Write the answer in cents and then in dollars and cents. Afterward, encourage your child to describe money as a decimal amount whenever the opportunity arises.

Vocabulary

balance The amount of money in a bank account after a deposit or withdrawal

deposit To add money to a bank account

withdraw To take money out of a bank account

The Multilingual Glossary is available online.

TIPS

Line Up Place Values

When adding decimals, write additional zeros to the right of the last digit as needed so that the addends have the same number of decimal places.