

Dear Family,

The next unit in your child's mathematics class this year is ***Comparing and Scaling: Ratio, Proportion, and Percent***. Students look at problems involving many situations and learn to make comparisons using ratios, fractions, percents, and rates.

UNIT GOALS

One goal of this unit is to develop students' abilities to make useful comparisons of quantitative information using ratios, fractions, decimals, rates, unit rates, and percents. A second goal is to have students learn to use quantitative comparison information to make larger or smaller scale models.

Students should also learn different ways to reason in proportional situations and to recognize when such reasoning is appropriate.

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

As your child studies this unit you can help with homework, and at the same time, encourage sound mathematical habits by asking questions such as:

- When quantities have different measurements, how can they be compared?
- When can a comparison be made by subtraction? When can division be used?
- Why is a ratio a good means of comparison? How can it be scaled up or down?
- Where can ratios be used in daily life to find unknown quantities or inaccessible measurements?
- How can we use proportions for solving problems?

In your child's notebook, you can find worked-out examples from problems done in class, notes on the mathematics of the unit, and descriptions of the vocabulary words.

HAVING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE MATHEMATICS IN COMPARING AND SCALING

You can help your child in several ways:

- Ratios, proportions, and percents are found all around us. When you notice such a use in a newspaper or magazine, point it out to your child and discuss with your child what the numbers are telling them about the situation.
- Have your child share his or her mathematics notebook with you, showing you what has been recorded about ratios. Ask your child to explain why these ideas are important.
- Have your child pick a question that was interesting to him or her and explain it to you.

A few important mathematical ideas that your child will learn in *Comparing and Scaling* are given on the back. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this unit or your child's progress in the class, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,