

# POWERFUL PARTNERS

## January

Parents and Guardians,

You are powerful partners in education and learning does not have to end in the classroom. How can you help at home? Here are some engaging activities that will support learning at home and help your child become more successful in their studies.

## READING

### To Improve Reading and Geography

- When planning a vacation, let your child see the road map and help you plan where you will drive. Talk about where you will start and where you will end up. Let your child follow the route between these two points. Encourage your child to write to the Chamber of Commerce for brochures about places you will see on your trip.
- Clip out an interesting news story about a foreign country and cut the paragraphs apart. Ask your child to read the paragraphs and put them in order. Have your child locate the country on the map.

### Use Television to Stimulate Reading

- Ask your child to tell you about favorite TV characters using different kinds of words.
- Encourage your child to watch such programs as Reading Rainbow. Urge older children to watch such programs as 60 Minutes and selected documentaries. These programs are informative. Discuss interesting ideas covered in the programs and direct your child to maps, encyclopedias, fiction, or popular children's magazines for more information.

## MATH

### Multiply and Divide Decimals

- Talk to your child about how they would set up the following problem, have them set it up and have them ESTIMATE and not actually multiply. Have them estimate the answer first to see what their actual answer should be close to, and then once they solve it, make sure it is reasonable. Mrs. James buys about 15.8 gallons of gas each week for her car. About how many gallons of gas will she buy in 5 weeks? (Answer: round 15.8 to 16 and then multiply by 5 for it would be around 80 gallons for 5 weeks)
- Have your child do the same thing with estimation in the problem below. Ask them to explain to you why they are estimating, instead of actually multiplying the numbers? (Answer: because it asks for an estimate and not an exact answer). A worker loads 16 packages onto a truck. Each package weighs 58.5 pounds. About how many pounds are loaded onto the truck? (Answer:  $60 \times 20 = 1200$  answers could vary if the student did not round the 16 to 20 to make it a friendlier number. That is fine too.)

### Expressions and Patterns

- Have your child look at the examples below and explain which of the students are correct, Hunter or Kim, in their math while using order of operations.

Hunter:  $(10 - 5) + 2^2 \times 4 = 36$

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 + 2^2 \times 4 \\ 5 + 4 \times 4 \\ 9 \times 4 \\ 36 \end{array}$$

Kim:  $(10 - 5) + 2^2 \times 4 = 21$

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 + 2^2 \times 4 \\ 5 + 4 \times 4 \\ 5 + 16 \\ 21 \end{array}$$

- Have your child work the 4 problems below and check their answers. (The answers should be 370, 17, 300 and 16.)

$5 \times (92 - 18) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

$12 + (4^2) - 11 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

$(15 - 5) \times [(9 \times 3) + 3] = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

$58 - 6 \times 7 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$