

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks our math class will be learning about variables and how to evaluate expressions and solve equations that contain variables.

You can also expect to see work that provides practice writing function rules and completing function tables that use variables.

As we learn how to solve equations that contain variables, you may wish to use this sample as a guide.

Vocabulary

equation A mathematical sentence with an equal sign.

expression A number, variable, or any combination of numbers, variables, and operation signs.

function table A table that matches each input value with a unique output value.

variable A letter or a symbol that represents a number in an algebraic expression.

Solving Equations Containing Variables

Find the value of x in $x + 4 = 7$.

Find the value of x in $2x = 8$.

Subtract 4 from both sides of the equation, so x is alone on one side.

Divide both sides of the equation by 2, so x is alone on one side.

$$\begin{aligned} x + 4 &= 7 \\ (x + 4) - 4 &= 7 - 4 \\ x &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2x &= 8 \\ 2x \div 2 &= 8 \div 2 \\ x &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

Knowing how to solve equations containing variables will lay the foundation for the math that students will learn in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Your Child's Teacher



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