

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks our math class will be learning about and practicing multiplication of whole numbers.

You can expect to see work that provides practice with multiplying numbers by one-digit factors as well as by two-digit factors.

As we learn how to multiply whole numbers and use estimation to check whether our answers are reasonable, you may wish to use this sample as a guide.

Vocabulary

estimate A number close to an exact amount. An estimate tells *about* how much or *about* how many.

factor One of two or more numbers that are multiplied to give a product.

product The answer in a multiplication problem.

Estimating to Check Multiplication

Follow these steps to find 189×21 and use estimation to tell if the answer is reasonable.

Estimate by rounding each factor to the greatest place.	Multiply to find the exact answer.	Compare the exact answer to the estimate.
$ \begin{array}{r} 189 \xrightarrow{\text{rounds to}} 200 \\ \times 21 \xrightarrow{\text{rounds to}} \times 20 \\ \hline 4,000 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 189 \\ \times 21 \\ \hline 189 \\ + 3780 \\ \hline 3,969 \end{array} $	<p>3,969 is close to 4,000.</p>

Since 3,969 is close to 4,000, the answer is reasonable.

Knowing how to multiply numbers by one and two digit factors will allow students to solve problems they will encounter in the real world.

Sincerely,

Your Child's Teacher



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