

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about decimals.

You can expect to see work that provides practice with fraction and decimal relationships as well as adding and subtracting decimals.

As we learn how to add and subtract decimals, you may wish to use this sample as a guide.

Shown below is a sample for adding. Subtracting will follow the same basic steps: lining up decimal points, subtracting as you would whole numbers, placing the decimal point in the answer, and rounding to check the answer.

Vocabulary

decimal number A number with one or more digits to the right of a decimal point. For example, 3.5 is a decimal.

decimal point A symbol used to separate the ones and tenths places in a decimal number.

tenths One or more of ten equal parts of a whole.

hundredths One or more of one hundred equal parts of a whole.

Add and Subtract Decimals

Add. $4.7 + 6.82 = \square$

First, line up the decimal points. Add as you would with whole numbers.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 4.70 \\ + 6.82 \\ \hline 11.52 \end{array}$$

← Place a zero in the unit place.

Next, place the decimal point in the answer.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 4.70 \\ + 6.82 \\ \hline 11.52 \end{array}$$

↑
decimal point

Finally, estimate to check the answer. Round both decimals and then add.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4.70 \text{ rounds to } 5 \\ 6.82 \text{ rounds to } 7 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$

11.52 is close to 12, so the answer is reasonable.

Knowing about decimals will help students solve problems they encounter at school, at home, and in the community.

Sincerely,

Your Child's Teacher



Check out *Education Place* at www.eduplace.com/camaf/ for eGlossary, eGames, test prep practice, and more.