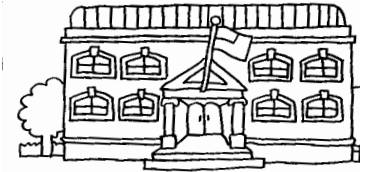


The following are suggestions for you to use during school open houses. Activities provide ways to show parents what their children are learning and how parents can take an active role in their children's education.



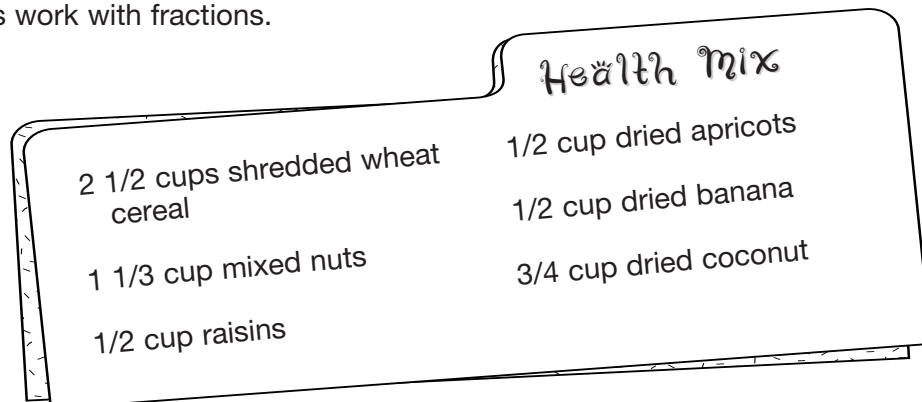
Open House

Suggestions for Preparing for Open House

- ◆ Place portfolios on a table for parents to see the progress their children have made in math. Parents will see how portfolios provide a means of communication among teachers, parents, and students.
- ◆ Place math manipulatives and tools at a math work center in the classroom so that parents can use them.
- ◆ Ask student volunteers to help you on Open House night.

Math Refreshments

Let students help make refreshments to serve parents. The following recipe may be copied and distributed so parents can see how students work with fractions.



Computer Use in the Classroom

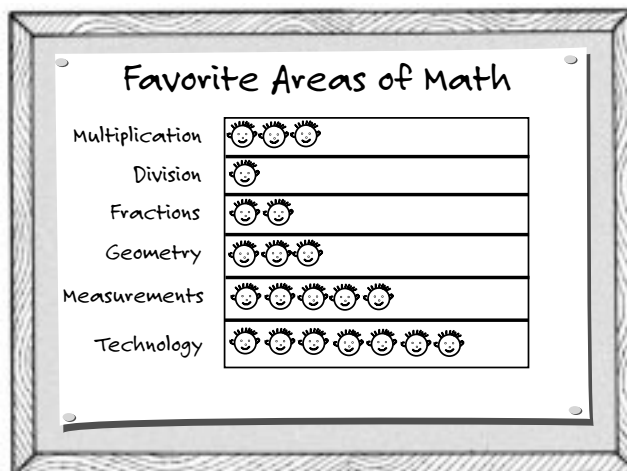
Ask student volunteers to demonstrate computer software, such as *DataWonder!*, and answer parents' questions.

Involving Parents

- ◆ Provide parents with a calendar of PTA meetings, dates, and locations. Ask parents if they have any questions regarding the role of the PTA in the community.
- ◆ If possible, copy a list or schedule of school events such as class trips, dances, picnics, and sports activities. Prepare a sign-up sheet for parents who have special skills or talents to share.
- ◆ Leave a blank index card on each child's desk. Ask parents to write a note listing one yearly goal for the child to meet.

Bulletin Board Suggestion

Create a bulletin-board display of a bar graph showing students' favorite topics in math. Possible areas include multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, geometry, measurement, and technology. Have students place a copy of their school photos in the row corresponding to their favorite area of math.



Teacher-Directed Activities

- ◆ Use the bulletin-board display as a starting point to talk about some of the subject areas students will be studying in math this year.
- ◆ Demonstrate some of the measurement tools used in class such as a pan balance and metric measures. Give parents the opportunity to find the mass of some classroom items.
- ◆ Display geometric solids, fraction pieces, and math software.
- ◆ Ask parents to look at their copies of the recipe for health mix. Show them how to double the recipe to make a bigger batch and then how to half the recipe to make a smaller batch. Parents can take the recipes home and ask children to help them make a smaller or larger batch of the mix.
- ◆ On the board, write examples of addition and subtraction word problems involving 3 or more addends or 3 or more digits. Encourage parents to write word problems about topics of interest to fifth graders. Collect the problems to distribute to your students in class.

Information to Distribute to Parents

See the following articles in *Home and Community Connections* which are available to give to parents at Open House:

- ◆ Time Management Tips
- ◆ Helping with Homework
- ◆ Over the Break
- ◆ Preparing for Tests
- ◆ Summer Math
- ◆ Using Technology at Home