



Dear Family,

In this unit, your child will be learning about the common multiplication method that most adults know. However, they will also explore ways to draw multiplication. *Math Expressions* uses area of rectangles to show multiplication.

	30	+	7		
20	$20 \times 30 = 600$		$20 \times 7 = 140$		
+					
4	$4 \times 30 = 120$		$4 \times 7 = 28$		

Area Method:

$$20 \times 30 = 600$$

$$20 \times 7 = 140$$

$$4 \times 30 = 120$$

$$4 \times 7 = 28$$

Total = 888

Shortcut Method:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 2 \\ 37 \\ \times 24 \\ \hline 148 \\ 74 \\ \hline 888 \end{array}$$

Area drawings help all students see multiplication. They also help students remember what numbers they need to multiply and what numbers make up the total.

Your child will also learn to find products involving single-digit numbers, tens, and hundreds by factoring the tens or hundreds. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} 200 \times 30 &= 2 \times 100 \times 3 \times 10 \\ &= 2 \times 3 \times 100 \times 10 \\ &= 6 \times 1,000 = 6,000 \end{aligned}$$

By observing the zeros patterns in products like these, your child will learn to do such multiplications mentally.

If your child is still not confident with single-digit multiplication and division, we urge you to set aside a few minutes every night for multiplication and division practice. In a few more weeks, the class will be doing multidigit division, so it is very important that your child be both fast and accurate with basic multiplication and division.

If you need practice materials, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher

