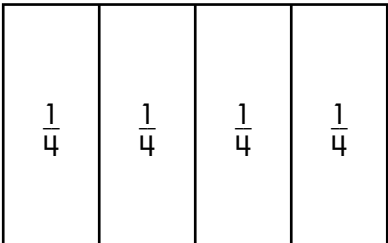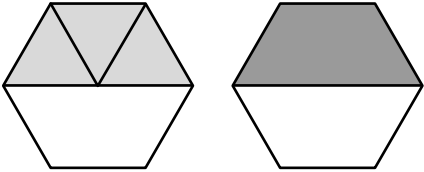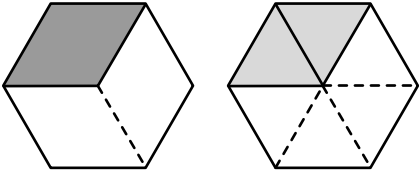# About the Mathematics in This Unit (page 1 of 2)

Dear Family,

Our class is starting a new mathematics unit about fractions called *Finding Fair Shares.* In this unit, students investigate the meaning of fractions and the ways fractions can be represented. They solve sharing problems (How can 2 people share 3 brownies equally?), build wholes from fractional parts $\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1\right)$, and find fraction and decimal equivalents $\left(\frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{6}; \frac{1}{2} = 0.5\right)$.
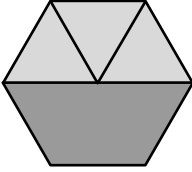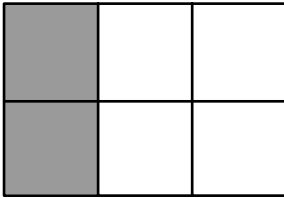
Throughout the unit, students work toward these goals:

| BENCHMARK/ GOAL | EXAMPLES | |
|---|---|---|
| Divide a single whole or a quantity into equal parts and name those parts as fractions or mixed numbers. | 1 brownie shared equally among 4 people <br><br> $\frac{1}{4}$ $\quad$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\quad$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\quad$ $\frac{1}{4}$ <br><br> Each person gets $\frac{1}{4}$. | |
| Identify equivalent fractions. | $\frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$ |

*(continued)*

## About the Mathematics in This Unit (page 2 of 2)

| BENCHMARK/ GOAL | EXAMPLES | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Find combinations of fractions that are equal to one and to other fractions. | $\frac{3}{6} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ | $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$ | $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$ |

In our math class, students spend time discussing problems in depth and are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain the math thinking that supports those solutions.

Please look for more information and activities about *Finding Fair Shares* that will be sent home in the coming weeks.