

Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core Standards — Mathematics: Middle School

Here are just a few examples of how students will learn about and work with fractions in grade six.

Grade Five Mathematics	Grade Six Mathematics	Grade Seven Mathematics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add and subtract fractions with different denominators (bottom numbers) • Multiply a fraction by a whole number or another fraction • Divide fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by fractions to solve word problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide fractions by fractions using models and equations to represent the problem • Solve word problems involving division of fractions by fractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers in any form, including whole numbers, fractions, and decimals) • Solve multi-step problems involving positive and negative rational numbers

Example of a problem involving the division of fractions.

Ann has $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of peanuts for the party. She wants to put them in small bags each containing $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. How many small bags of peanuts will she have?



Students use their knowledge of fractions to see that there are 7 halves in $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, so there will be 7 bags of peanuts.



Students can also find how many halves are in $3\frac{1}{2}$ by applying the traditional procedure of dividing $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$.

$$3\frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{2}$$

$$\frac{7}{2} \div \frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{2} \times \frac{2}{1} = \frac{14}{2} = 7$$

Consider the skill taught above. When is this skill used in real life? What are some examples you can use to demonstrate this concept to your child? When you feel it is a skill that you both understand, please complete the survey at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school for a Uniform-Free Day! The survey should be returned to Katherine Kennedy, the GSD Parent Involvement Coordinator.

If you would like additional practice exercises regarding this topic, please contact your child's math teacher.