

# The Common Denominator

A Family Math Newsletter

## Welcome to Pre-Algebra Newsletters

The BCPS Office of Mathematics is happy to share Pre-Algebra Newsletters with our students and their families. The Newsletters are provided to help give parents and guardians insight into each Unit of the course. There are 4 sections in each Newsletter: Unit at a Glance, Resources, Exploring Mathematics, and a Quote. In this first edition, there is an explanation of each of the Newsletter sections included below the section name. There are six units in the Pre-Algebra course:

1. The Number System
2. Ratios and Proportional Relationships
3. Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities
4. Statistics and Probability
5. Geometry and Measurement
6. Transformational Geometry

Each unit will have its own Newsletter. While the Newsletters are meant to be informative, parents and guardians are encouraged to keep communication directly with their student's teacher through Schoology, email, Back-to-School Nights and/or conferences.

## Unit at a Glance

The "Unit at a Glance" section is provided to give an overview of the specific topics and skills that students will be expected to learn in the unit. An estimated time frame is also stated. The first unit in Pre-Algebra is The Number System.



## Exploring Mathematics

In the "Exploring Mathematics" section, connections are made between the math in the unit and practical applications. This can be an exploration of related careers, applications of the math to real-world problems, discussion prompts to have with your child, or information about growth mindsets. One of the best ways to support your child in math class is to have positive conversations about math. The prompts in this section are meant to help start some positive discussions surrounding the math in the unit.

## Resources

## Resource Toolkit

The "Resources" section has information about texts, videos, and practice problems that can benefit a student when working outside of the classroom. The first part of the "Resources" section lists three different locations where information and supports can be found: the physical text: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, *Go Math Series Accelerated Grade 7*, as well as the *Interactive Student Edition* and *Student Resources*. This resource and others such as Discovery Education, which are accessed through BCP-Sone Digital Content.

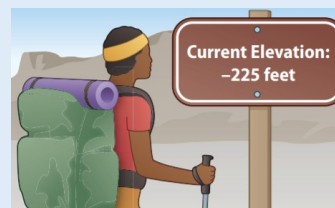
## Homework Help Section

The *Homework Help* section references an item or two that are in the *Student Resources* portion of HMH that are the most beneficial for students in need of support outside of the classroom. Encourage your student to access these resources if they are having difficulty or confusion about a topic. If your student continues to have difficulty, encourage them to discuss with their teacher.

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Pre-Algebra Unit 1: The Number System



## Unit at a Glance

### Skills/ Topics:

- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers and rational numbers.
- Apply integer and rational number operations to solve real-world problems.
- Distinguish between rational and irrational numbers.
- Locate and order real numbers on a number line.
- Write numbers in scientific notation.
- Perform operations with numbers expressed in scientific notation



### Length:

45 minutes: 30 days; 90 minutes: 15 days

## Exploring Mathematics

Math at Home:

**Integer War:** Deal out all cards to players. Players lay down one card at a time. Whoever has the lowest value card keeps the cards. **Red Cards are negative.** **Black Cards are positive.** Face cards (king, queen, jack) are 10 points. Aces are 0 points. Whoever has the most cards at the end of the game wins.



## Resource Toolkit

### HMH Resources

Module 1: Adding and Subtracting Integers pg. 1-32  
Module 2: Multiplying and Dividing Integers pg. 33-56  
Module 3: Rational Numbers pg. 57-109

### Discovery ED Techbook Info

Grade 7  
Signed Numbers, Concept 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3  
The Rational Number System, Concept 2.1 and 2.2

### Homework Help Section

#### Open Up Resources

Unit 5 All Lessons and Practice Problems

[Khan Academy– Adding Integers](#)

[Khan Academy– Adding and Subtracting Negative Numbers](#)

[Khan Academy– Multiplying and Dividing Integers](#)

“You know what seems odd to me, numbers that are not divisible by two.”

- **Anonymous**