

Keep margins at 1" (as they are set in the template). If you write past this mark, the students won't be able to read the words once they are put in their folder.



Western Oregon University

To: Chase
From: Ron
Problem: Pizza Problem
Date: October 1, 2014

Dear Chase, [Start the letter Dear [Buddy Name]]

Hi! My name is Ron and I am going to be your Math Buddy!

I like puppies and spinach. In my spare time I like to change the oil in my car. I like to play the harp, but I'm not very good. I take lessons ten times a week so hopefully I will get better soon. [A short paragraph about yourself]

Thank you for your letter. That is awesome that you are an excellent swimmer. I was on the swim team in high school and loved it! To answer your question, I have two brothers, but they both live in Washington. [If they wrote you a letter, respond to it here.]

Thank you for your work on the Pizza problem! You are very close to getting the correct answer! You are right that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the students is 150, but what did the question say about those 150 students? What does it say about the rest of the students? Remember to always go back and re-read the problem. Check that you used all of the important information and answered the right question. [praise & prompt together if they are related - one idea per paragraph]

I appreciate how you wrote the final answer in a complete sentence. It is always important to put your answer back in a sentence that answers the question to the problem. [praise]

Here is one idea for next time to help make your work even better: Write units next to the numbers you use. For example, write "150 students" instead of just "150" or "450 slices" instead of "450". These unit labels help you keep better track of what your numbers mean and makes it easier for me to understand your work. [prompt]

It's also a good idea to always check your work. Checking your work by doing the problem in a different way helps you know for sure that you got the right answer. [prompt]

I'd like to learn a little bit more about you. What is your favorite subject in school? Have you had a math buddy before? What is your favorite color? Do you have any pets? [A short paragraph asking them some questions to get a dialog going if you did not already do so in your response to their letter. Be sure not to ask questions they already answered in their first letter to you.]

Chase, I am excited to be your math buddy! I am studying to be an elementary school teacher and hope to teach kids like you one day. I am sure we can learn a lot from each other! [A closing paragraph letting them know you look forward to working with them.]

Your buddy,

Ron