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Foundation of Numbers and Operations

Writing Assignment

When contemplating the options for this paper, the most obvious choice that I would utilize daily would be cooking. I weighed several options of things that I would use daily and food is a necessity of life. Cooking requires many skills learned in Foundation of Numbers and Operations. However, I want to discuss the applied use of dividing fractions.

 If I’m planning a regular weekday meal for my family I must apply math because my family is much smaller than what general recipes call for. When making lasagna I have to divide all the ingredients. The basic ingredients of lasagna are ground beef, tomato sauce, lasagna noodles, ricotta cheese, mozzarella cheese, and hot water.

When I divide the 1 pound of ground beef by ½, my new amount is ½ pound of ground beef. The 4 cups of pasta sauce will also be divided by ½ as well. This will give me a whole number of 2. I will need 2 cups of pasta sauce. 6 lasagna noodles divided by ½ will become the whole number 3. When dividing my container of ricotta cheese, I divide 1 (15oz) container by ½ and I will need ½ a container of ricotta cheese. This next ingredient is my favorite! I use 2 ½ cups (10oz) of shredded mozzarella cheese. When this is divided by ½ my new amount is 1 ¼ . Lastly, I will need my new total for my hot water. I must divide ¼ by ½ and my final amount for water is 1/8. This is my regular recipe for lasagna halved for my small family.

 Now I could not do an entire meal without dessert. My family loves brownies, so many batches of brownies get cooked at my house. Sometimes I must half the recipe so as not to waste the brownie mix. To do this I must apply my math skills to accomplish the recipe in which I would like to use. In this recipe it calls for 3 tablespoons of water, ½ cup of vegetable oil and 2 eggs. The first thing I must do is divide my fraction for vegetable oil. When doing this I divide ½ by ½ and my new amount is ¼ cup of vegetable oil. I also must divide my other items. When measuring the water, I divide 3 by ½ and my new amount is 1 ½ tablespoons of water. My 2 eggs are divided by ½ and my new amount needed is the whole number 1. This is how you half the recipe for brownies.

 As you can see we implement mathematical skills into our daily lives. Most of the time we do each of these things without even realizing it. I did not recognize it myself until I was asked to. This is just one way to apply dividing fractions into everyday life. Many tasks in life require the skills learned in our Foundation of Numbers and Operations class.