**Adding and subtracting Fractions**

**Step 1.**

Make sure Fractions have the same and lowest possible denominator, (Lowest Common Denominators, LCD), then add or subtract the numerator only.

**2 + 1 = 3**

**5 5 5**

**Step 2.**

If denominators are different;

Determine if the smaller denominator can be multiplied by *some* number to equal the larger denominator.

**4** - **1** (***Denominators are 9 and 3, 3 being the smaller denominator can be multiplied by 3 to equal 9***)

**9 3**

Multiply both the numerator and the denominator by the number used to find common denominators.

**4 - 1 x 3 = 3 SO 4 - 3 = 1**

**9 3 3 9 9 9 9**

**Step 3.**

If step 2 can’t be used to find the LCD, you must find the Lowest (possible), Common Multiple, (LCM) of each denominator.

**2 + 1**

**4 18**

Multiples of 4, (4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, **36**,….). Multiples of 18, (18, **36**, 54, 72, 90……)

Once the common multiple/denominator is found, multiply each denominator and numerator by the correct number that will equals your lowest common multiple.

**2 x 9 = 18**

**4 9 36**

**1 x 2 = 2 SO 18 + 2 = 20**

**18 2 36 36 36 36 Then Simplify or reduce**