



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Families,

Welcome to the start of 8th grade ELAR (English Language Arts and Reading) class! We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging year as we help your child further develop his/her reading and writing skills.

During this first six week period, we will focus on learning to analyze a variety of short stories and expository texts, synthesize the two genres, discuss the choices the author made, and model our own writing after these pieces. Additionally, students will participate in writing workshop, which will give students the opportunity to regularly practice writing and critical thinking in new ways throughout the school year.

Our first six weeks include these big ideas:

- Interacting with texts through annotation, analysis, and comparison
- Analyzing the structure and elements of short stories
- Examining the unique structure and elements in expository texts
- Writing and editing personal narratives guided by mentor texts

At the conclusion of our six weeks, the students will take a districtwide ELAR assessment. This will help both the students and teachers assess needs and set goals for future growth in student reading and writing skills.

We encourage you to talk to your child about what he or she is learning in class, and regularly review Skyward Access. If your child needs additional help, individual and small group tutorials are available before school; please check with your child's teacher for specific times.

You may also find the following online resources helpful to your child:

- Purdue Online Writing Lab: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> This website offers a wide array of writing resources.
- Texas Library Association: <http://www.txla.org/> The Lone Star reading list is geared for middle school students.
- Additional resources are available on our district ELAR website: <http://www.emsisd.com/jvu>

Please feel free to contact your child's English teacher if you need additional information or have questions. We are excited about our plans this year and look forward to working with you to help ensure your child's success.

Thank you,

8th Grade ELAR Teachers