



# EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

*Fostering a Culture of Excellence*

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Dear Families,

As we begin the third six weeks and move toward the end of the first semester, we are writing to provide a quick overview of upcoming plans for Grade 8 ELAR classes.

During this six week period, we will focus on the unique elements of expository texts while introducing research skills. We will begin our expository/research writing by applying the skills we learned last semester.

Our third six weeks will include these big ideas:

- Interacting with texts through annotation, analysis, and comparison
- Examining the structure and elements of research writing
- Analyzing the structure and elements of expository texts
- Writing and editing research compositions guided by mentor texts and using a variety of resources

At the conclusion of our six weeks, students will take a districtwide ELAR assessment. This will help both the students and teachers assess needs and set goals for future growth in 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. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you to help ensure your child's success.

Thank you,

8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELAR Teachers

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