



# EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

*Fostering a Culture of Excellence*

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Dear Families,

Our students continue to work hard and grow in their writing and reading skills. We are proud of them!

We will continue working toward reading and writing mastery, but we will also be preparing for and taking the STAAR test. **The STAAR Review is March 21 – 28. The STAAR Reading Exam is March 29 – 30.**

During this six week period, we will review short stories and focus on the effects of persuasion and rhetoric. We will also continue writing a variety of expository pieces that respond to different writing prompts.

Our fifth six weeks will include these big ideas:

- Interacting with texts through annotation, analysis, and comparison
- Analyzing the structure and elements of persuasive writing
- Examining rhetorical appeals
- Reviewing short story elements
- Writing and editing persuasive compositions guided by mentor texts

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 and help in keeping your child focused during this important academic period. 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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