



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Families,

Thank you for a great first six weeks filled with wonderful discussions, insights, and stories! Watching our students' imaginations come alive on paper was an encouraging and exciting way to start the year, and we know they will only continue to grow as readers and writers.

The aim of this reading unit is to sharpen student's ability to read more complex nonfiction by focusing on their fluency with summarizing texts with information that is relevant to central idea, citing the texts accurately, and reading to discern more than one idea in the text. Students will learn several note-taking strategies in order to effectively gather and sort incoming information, to process information, to develop ideas about what they're learning, and to prepare to talk and write about specific topics. This unit is designed to complement the writing unit where the students will focus on research-based information writing. Though this unit focuses on nonfiction, students should be encouraged to continue reading fiction at home or during a designated time during the school day to maintain their reading rate, fluency, and level through continued practice.

The writing portion of this unit will teach students how to conduct research. Students will learn how to move through the steps of finding a narrow topic, creating research questions, and using multiple resources for information. Students will learn to take organized notes as well as how to integrate information into a written piece.

During the second six weeks, our students will have two writing assessments, which will occur at the beginning and end of the grading period. Teachers will continue using these assessments to drive instructional decisions, measure growth in writing, and to evaluate their students' ability to transfer the skills that have been taught to independent writing tasks. The second assessment will be graded using a common standards-based rubric. Students will be practicing skills that will simulate the high-stakes testing that will come later this year.

Please continue to review your student's performance via Skyward Access, and contact his or her teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

EMS-ISD 6th Grade ELAR Teachers