



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Families,

Can you believe that we are starting the third six weeks? This year is flying by, but we have already seen our students growing as readers and writers. We can't wait to see what other creations and insights they have in store for us.

We will continue to study authors to analyze their style and craft so that students can, in turn, develop their own voices in their own writing. We know that the more students read, the more likely their writing will improve. Once students understand how authors use nuances to control tone, development of the character, and how authors develop themes throughout a text, they will be able to do similar things in their own writing.

During this unit, students will continue to craft literary responses to texts by analyzing author's craft and purpose within mentor texts. Using mentor texts allows students to witness examples of great writing, then mimic those examples within their own texts. Students will focus on literary elements like character, setting, tone and theme within these mentor texts. Once they have written their own piece, students will revise and edit drafts to improve sentence structure, develop and strengthen ideas, and provide a consistent point of view as well as work on mechanics and conventions.

During the third six weeks unit, all seventh grade ELAR students in EMS ISD will be assessed in three different areas. The District Common Assessment (DCA), will assess reading; the Writing Conventions Assessment (WCA), will assess revision and editing skills; and the On-Demand Writing assessment will assess writing. Teachers will use these assessments to drive instructional decisions and measure growth over the course of the year. A pre-assessment in each area will be administered at the beginning of the unit which is designed to provide information for teachers about individual student needs as they plan for instruction. A post-assessment in each area will be administered at the end of the unit and create an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned during the unit. For writing, the On-Demand Writing assessment will be graded using a standards-based rubric. Semester exams are during the last week of the grading period, January 11-15.

Please encourage your student to share what they are reading and writing about in class. Also 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 7th Grade ELAR Teachers