



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Families,

Welcome to your seventh grade English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) class! We are excited about our plans this year, and we look forward to working with you. This year we hope to support our students' development as critical readers and writers through reader's and writer's workshop and with multiple opportunities for them to engage with a variety of texts. By the end of this school year, our students will be prepared to enter eighth grade with the skills they need in order to be successful, insightful readers and writers.

Because the ELAR TEKS have changed this school year for Kindergarten through Grade 8, please know that coursework in ELAR will really look much more integrated--students will be reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking all the time! Furthermore, students will no longer have a textbook in their ELAR classroom; rather, they will have access to a classroom library of grade-appropriate texts to further their engagement as readers and writers.

This unit establishes the volume and pace of reading for the year. Students will learn a variety of reading strategies including making predictions, inferences, meaningful connections, and thoughtful contributions to class and small group literature discussions. This unit hopes to establish in students the power of knowing, loving, and studying an author's work. Ultimately, the goal of this unit is for students to learn to visualize elements of the text, monitor their own comprehension when they read independently, and make connections between the words on the page and the world around them. During the remainder of the six-week unit, students will bring moments to life in their narratives. They will write fiction stories and literary nonfiction texts, reflect on them, revise them, edit them, and confer with their peers and teacher about their ideas.

During the first six weeks, all seventh grade ELAR students in EMS ISD will have two writing assessments that will be given before and after the writing unit. Teachers will use these assessments to drive instructional decisions and measure growth in writing over the course of the year. Moreover, these assessments create an opportunity for teachers to evaluate their students' ability to transfer the skills that have been taught when students write independently. This approach reflects our goal of nurturing great writers rather than simply producing great pieces of writing. The first writing assessment will be administered at the beginning of the unit and is designed to provide information for teachers about individual student needs as they plan for instruction. The second writing assessment will be administered at the end of the unit and creates an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned during a particular unit. The second assessment will be graded using a standards-based rubric. Students will also have a required reading assessment and one which assesses students' revising and editing skills.

We encourage you to speak with your students about what they are reading, writing, and learning in class. Please be sure to review your student's performance via Skyward Access, and contact his or her teacher if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you this year!

Respectfully,

EMS-ISD 7th Grade ELAR Teachers



**EAGLE MOUNTAIN
SAGINAW ISD**

Fostering a Culture of Excellence
