



# 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 to be successful, insightful readers and writers.

Our ELAR TEKS, the foundation of our curriculum, ask students to engage in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking. Additionally, students will no longer have a textbook in their middle school ELAR classroom; rather, they have access to a classroom library of grade-appropriate texts to further their engagement as readers and writers. We hope that by moving away from a textbook, students will have the opportunity to engage with texts of their choosing, thereby developing within them a love of reading.

This first six weeks unit is divided into two parts. During the initial weeks of the unit, we will develop relationships, introduce appropriate use of technology, and establish a baseline of skills for all students. Our desire as teachers is to meet our students where they are in their learning. We will then establish the volume and pace of reading for the year. Students will learn a variety of reading strategies that will allow them to make meaningful connections, and thoughtful contributions to class and small group literature discussions. 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. After reading mentor texts, students will be ready to bring moments to life in their narratives. They will write both fiction stories and literary nonfiction texts, then go on to reflect, revise, edit, and confer with their peers and teacher about their ideas.

During the first six-week unit, all seventh grade ELAR students in EMS ISD will be assessed in three different areas: reading, writing, and revising and editing. Reading, along with revising and editing, will be assessed on the District Common Assessment (DCA). The third area, the On-Demand Writing assessment, will assess students' abilities to write at length about a particular topic in a 45-minute class period. 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.

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