



**EAGLE MOUNTAIN  
SAGINAW ISD**  
*Fostering a Culture of Excellence*

Dear Families,

We are already half-way through the school year! Thank you for a wonderful first semester, and we are encouraged and excited for an even stronger second semester.

This unit will develop a reader's understanding and appreciation for not just WHAT the author of a text is saying, but HOW that author gets the meaning across. During the fourth six weeks, students will apply these analysis skills to more complex nonfiction texts. The major goal of this reading unit is to sharpen students' ability to read more complex nonfiction by focusing on their fluency in summarizing texts with information that is relevant to central ideas, citing the texts accurately, and reading to discern if the text presents more than one idea.

Students will become active researchers during this unit. They will learn how to support their ideas with details and examples, identify research questions for their research topics, and determine the author's purpose and how it affects a reader's interpretation of the information. Additionally, students will spend a great deal of time analyzing and synthesizing information from multiple sources, learning how to prove claims, and applying what they have learned to debate and teach others. Students will take their research to a public audience to make their work more meaningful and authentic.

During the fourth 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.

Be sure to check with your student to see what they are reading and writing about in class. Also, 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 7th Grade ELAR Teachers

Commented [MM1]: Consider having these paragraphs match the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks letter