



# 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.

When eighth graders advance to high school, they need to be highly skilled, efficient, critical researchers. This unit will help cultivate strong *readers* of nonfiction and research. One goal of this unit is for students to learn that when researchers begin to research, they need to pay attention to their thinking - they need to suspend judgment and remain open to different sides of an issue – a skill we hope they'll carry through to adulthood. Another goal is to inspire the belief that students need to read more than one text on a subject in order to build an informed argument. By the end of this unit, students should no longer believe that nonfiction is 'true,' but will perceive that it is simply one person's perspective on the truth. At this point in the year, they have been exposed to multiple genres, including literary, informational, and argumentative texts.

During the third six weeks, our students will write a well-developed argument essay based on investigations of all sides of an issue discussed in class. Students will be instructed to look at all angles of an issue as they create and support their own argument but introduce a counterargument and rebuttal as well. Student writing will be evaluated using a standards-based performance rubric.

Students will also complete the district common reading assessment during the unit. Semester exams are during the last week of the grading period.

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