Dear Families,

With only one more grading period remaining for this school year, we want to thank you for all of your support and encouragement! This has been a truly fantastic school year brimming with creativity, growth, insight, and maturity. By the end of this grading period, we feel confident that your student will have the skills necessary to be successful in their future high school English classes and real-world challenges.

In this unit, students will develop their understanding of how authors use specific literary devices to create meaning, develop theme, and make a comment on a social issue. The goal is to encourage students to grow into powerful readers of complex and varied texts through thinking, writing, and talking about their reading. Students should spend a significant amount of time reading independently while teachers support them in learning to make complex inferences and connections among literary texts.

Argument is vital to a successful intellectual, social, and professional life. At many points in our lives, we will all need to be able to articulate a clear, defensible position on a topic that matters. Students will need to do this to survive most college coursework and succeed in the professional world. In this unit, the focus is on principled argument based on weighing and selecting evidence that is not just emotionally provocative but also truly supportive of the position over a social issue based on the novel and other texts read. Students will be able to question the connections others have made and make new ones to develop their own reasoning.

Please continue to review your student’s performance via Skyward Access, and contact his or her teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you again for a wonderful year.

Respectfully,

EMS-ISD 9th Grade ELA Teachers