



# EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

*Fostering a Culture of Excellence*

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Dear Families,

Welcome to your sophomore high school English Language Arts (ELA) 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 writer's workshop and multiple opportunities for them to engage with a variety of texts. By the end of this school year, our students will be prepared to continue high school with the skills they need in order to be successful in and out of the classroom.

Because the ELAR TEKS recently changed for high school, please know that the coursework in English will really look much more integrated—students will be reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking all the time! Furthermore, students will have access to a textbook, both in class and digitally.

In this unit students will be on the lookout for story lines that occur beneath the obvious stream of events; they will do this through an analysis of literary texts including literary nonfiction and short stories. They will also have multiple opportunities to write original literary narrative texts in order to "tell a story that matters." They will use the knowledge they gained from their readings of literary texts to help them craft their own and grow as critical and creative writers.

During the first six weeks, all tenth grade ELA students in EMS-ISD will have writing assessments that will be given during 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 is designed to provide information for teachers about individual student needs as they plan for instruction. The other writing assessment creates an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned during this particular unit. The final assessment will be graded using a standards-based rubric. Students will also complete the district common reading assessment during the unit. Teachers will use these assessments to drive instructional decisions and evaluate progress over the course of the year.

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 10<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teachers