



The Dictionary Project

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Mission Statement

The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn, so we encourage our sponsors to give dictionaries each year to children in the third grade.

Vision

*With the support of local sponsors and volunteers, we want to provide a dictionary to every student in the United States. In this way we hope to help them to improve their communication skills and make the most of their education. Many of our sponsors are also taking **The Dictionary Project** beyond the United States to help improve literacy worldwide.*

How do we buy dictionaries?

The Dictionary Project does not sell dictionaries. The way the project works is that you as the sponsor **make a monetary donation** to our organization and volunteer to distribute the books to students. By taking delivery of the books you agree that you will give them to students in the schools or programs you specify, not sell or keep them. Because we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, books obtained through us must be given to students as gifts.

Dictionaries may be ordered:

- through our website, or
- by newsletter order form, or
- by phone

If you would like to purchase books to be used as classroom sets and remain with the school, we will gladly put you in touch with the publishers of the books we use so that you may purchase directly from them.

Why give the dictionaries to third graders?

Third Grade was chosen as the year to give dictionaries to students for two reasons.

1. The first is *practical*: third grade is the year in which dictionary skills are taught in most schools.
2. The second is no less practical, but broader in scope: third grade represents a critical juncture in a child's education. This is the year a student makes the transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

All formal education from this point through college is premised upon the student being able to read and to understand what he or she reads. If we as a community want our children to succeed in education, we must ensure that they have the resources and encouragement to become strong readers by third grade.

The *power* of the gift resides in the *giving*. Our sponsors (*such as the *Glendale Education Foundation*) who donate money to “The Dictionary Project” typically implement the program where they live by visiting schools to present the dictionaries to the children. While there, they stress the importance of reading and learning. They encourage the children to do their best at school because education will help them to reach their goals as adults. At the same time, sponsors give the children a powerful tool to help with their schoolwork when they give them their dictionaries. These presentations also provide an unspoken message:

“We support your education and we want to see you succeed.”



GLENDALE EDUCATION FOUNDATION DONATES DICTIONARIES

(FLINTON) – A donation from the Glendale Education Foundation to “*The Dictionary Project*” made it possible for all 53 third grade students at Glendale Elementary School to receive a dictionary for their own personal use beginning November 18, 2019. The Dictionary Project, originating from Charleston, SC, has as its goal to reach *every* third grade student in the United States--furnishing them with such an important reference tool. Representative students in this submitted photo include (*Front Row – left to right*): **Emily Sinclair, Payton McClellan, Brooke Swasing, Evan Frank, Collin Nevling** and **Ava Mock**. *Back row*: **Kate Bacher**, Glendale Elementary School principal; **Rebekah Rhodes**, teacher; **Amy Abram**, teacher; **Gena Worthington**, teacher; and **Jessica Swasing**, board director of the Glendale Education Foundation.