



## Vestal Central School District

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[www.vestal.k12.ny.us](http://www.vestal.k12.ny.us)

### Media Advisory

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### **The Vestal Elks support the literacy goals of Vestal third-graders with Dictionary Project**

“Philanthropy... an act or gift done or made for humanitarian purposes: an active effort of goodwill.” Third-graders in the Vestal Central School District will receive a lesson in philanthropy from their friends at Vestal Elks Lodge 2508 - their very own dictionary! Continuing an annual tradition, representatives from the Vestal Elks will be handing out the dictionaries on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at African Road, Clayton Avenue, Glenwood, Tioga Hills and Vestal Hills elementary schools. Media representatives are invited to join us at 10:30 a.m. at African Road Elementary, 600 South Benita Boulevard, for that school's distribution.

Since 2004, Vestal Elks Lodge 2508 has donated over 5,200 dictionaries to third-graders in Vestal Schools! We are incredibly grateful for their support of our students and appreciate this annual gift that provides a wonderful tool for enhancing their literacy skills. Having access to a dictionary helps students build their vocabulary, and having an extensive vocabulary is a key factor in academic success.

The Elks work in conjunction with The Dictionary Project, a nonprofit organization, to assist all students in completing the school year as good writers, active readers, creative thinkers and resourceful learners. Thanks to civic organizations all over the country, such as Vestal Elks Lodge 2508, 36.1 million children have received their very own dictionaries, over 450,000 this year alone. According to The Dictionary Project website ([www.dictionaryproject.org](http://www.dictionaryproject.org)), educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn. This is why sponsoring organizations are encouraged to give the dictionaries to students in the third grade.