



For Immediate Release: March 18, 2024

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Books Donated to Third-Grade Students at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 9

Who:

The family of Gian Ortiz, a two-year-old who passed away

What:

Book donation

When:

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Where:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 9
485 North Clinton Avenue
Rochester, NY 14605

Details:

The family of Gian Ortiz is donating more than 60 books to third-grade students at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School No. 9. Gian sadly passed away six years ago at the tender age of two after a five-month stay in a neonatal intensive care unit. To honor his memory, Gian's family has partnered with the Rochester Education Foundation (REF) to donate books each year to students in the grade Gian would have been attending. Orlando Ortiz, Gian's father, is a former student at School No. 9. Students will be receiving books such as *Ada Twist* and *the Perilous Pants*, *Iggys Peck* and *the Mysterious Mansion*, and *Mia Mayhem Steals the Show*. Books being donated include authors of color and feature characters of color.

"We knew we wanted to do something special in Gian's memory because of his love for books," said Orlando Ortiz. "Being able to hold, turn the pages, and read a book brought him so much joy. We want to pass Gian's joy and love of books to a different class of students each year."

"One of the core areas of REF's work is to provide books for students," said Amy Stein, Executive Director of the Rochester Education Foundation. "This is a beautiful partnership, and we are excited to provide books for students that will spark joy and a love of reading."

Founded in 2005, REF's mission is to provide programs and resources to improve learning and success for all Rochester City public school students through partnerships with educators, businesses, and the community. For more information, visit www.rochestereducation.org.