**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Clovis East to host Special Olympics Soccer**

*More than 600 athletes will take part in Oct. 10 event*

The fields at Clovis East High will be bustling with activity Oct. 10, as more than 600 special education students take part in the annual Special Olympic High School/ATP Soccer Competition. The event includes skills training stations and soccer games for students who are in Severely Disabled, Autism, Functional Life Skills or Vocational Education classes. Participants will come from 15 high schools and 7 adult transitions programs (ATP) from across the Central Valley, including all of Clovis Unified’s high schools.

“Through the power of play, we unite people with and without intellectual disabilities to create a more connected community,” said Morgan Swain of Special Olympics Northern California. “Our programs aim to transform athletes into leaders and promote acceptance, unity and respect.”

Clovis East will have its giant inflatable Timberwolf Tunnel for athletes to enter the event that starts at 10:15 a.m. The opening ceremony will include the National Anthem, the Special Olympic Athlete Oath and the Special Olympic Torch.

Throughout the morning, there will be 10 fields with four timeslots for 35-minute games happening at 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., noon and 12:45 p.m. There will also be skills stations where students can have fun learning about dribbling; running and kicking; and shooting.

Host school Clovis East will have close to 150 student and teacher volunteers from multiple classes helping run the event. Those include ROP AFJROTC & ROP Fire Careers (setting up/tearing down), ROP Medical Careers (providing first aide, keeping score), Unified PE (running the skills stations) and the CE soccer teams (refereeing games).  The school’s Leadership Class is making large banners for each team and the cheer squad will be out cheering for all athletes.

“This will, hands down, be one of the largest Special Olympic events of the year, and probably the largest in Clovis Unified,” said CE Functional Life Skills teacher Casey Ryska who coordinates the event.

***NOTE:              Media – please check in with the CE front office before going to the soccer fields.***

WHAT:            Clovis East Special Olympic Soccer

WHEN:            Thursday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m

Opening Ceremony scheduled for 10:15 a.m. and the action to immediately follow.

WHERE:           Clovis East High School Soccer Complex

2940 Leonard Ave., Clovis Unified School District

CONTACT:       Event Organizers FLS teacher Casey Ryska, caseyryska@cusd.com; SDC teacher, Unified Soccer Coach Roman Gonzalez, romangonzalez@cusd.com,  (559) 327-4000

**Participating High Schools:** Buchanan, Bullard, Central East, Clovis, Clovis East, Clovis North, Clovis West, Fresno, Hoover, Justin Garza, McLane, Roosevelt, Sanger, Selma and Sunnyside

**Participating Adult Transition Programs:** Central, Clovis, Connections, Easton, Fresno Pacific, Selma and Sutherland

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