**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Satoshi Hirayama Elementary School Grand Opening**

*Clovis Unified’s newest school is “Bringing the Heat” on Aug. 15*

A Taiko drum group, future students and the 101-year-old brother of the new school’s namesake will be on hand at the Aug. 15th Grand Opening Celebration of Satoshi Hirayama Elementary – Clovis Unified’s 35th elementary school! Opening at Fowler and McKinley avenues in the district’s population-growing southeast area, Hirayama will be open for class starting Monday, Aug. 19.

With construction scheduled for completion by early next year, the campus will open with a finished administration building, library, MPR and classrooms for TK-1 grade students. Portables will temporarily be used for other grades, and students will watch as their campus literally comes to life. It will be an exciting time of forging new traditions and laying the groundwork for “The Heat” – the school’s mascot. The school colors are red, white and gold, and are a tribute to Satoshi Hirayama’s Japanese origins.

Mr. Hirayama was a long-time Clovis Unified teacher and leader, and ground-breaking Japanese American. He experienced internment as a child, went on to play baseball at Fresno State, served in the U.S. Army in the Korean War and was the first Japanese American to play in Japan’s professional baseball league.

At this week’s Grand Opening event, Hirayama Principal Laura Reynolds, district administration and the school’s first PTC president will speak. About 50 members of Mr. Hirayama’s family are expected to attend, including his three sons and his 101-year-old brother known as “Uncle Tets.” Hirayama students will lead the flag salute and there will be a drum performance prior to a ribbon cutting. Tours will be offered following the ceremony.

**WHAT:** Satoshi Hirayama Elementary School Grand Opening Celebration

**WHEN:** 8 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 15

**WHERE:** Hirayama Elementary

     2150 N. Fowler Ave., Fresno

**CONTACT:** Kelly Avants, Chief Executive Officer

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***Media – Those interested in covering the event, please check in with the Hirayama Front Office upon arrival. Thank you!***