**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**April 15, 2024**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Kindergarten signing April 16 for new Hirayama Elementary**

*Kids to be among first full graduating class from Clovis South Area*

Holding a pencil or crayon in hand, Clovis Unified’s youngest students who will attend the new Satoshi Hirayama Elementary School this August, will do their best to sign their names at the school’s Kindergarten Signing Day on Tuesday, April 16.

With a photo backdrop showcasing the new school’s mascot The Heat and school colors of red, white and Vegas gold, kids will trace the dotted lines spelling their name – or they can just draw a happy face.

“We are so excited to welcome students and their families,” said Hirayama Principal Laura Reynolds. She will be giving each youngster a school t-shirt with the year they will be graduating from Clovis Unified on it. It’ll be an adult sized extra large so that parents can capture a photo of their child each year from now through their senior year.

“This kindergarten/TK class is special because they will be the first to complete their entire educational career not just at Hirayama, but also in the new Clovis South Area,” Reynolds said.

Hirayama Elementary is under construction at McKinley and Fowler avenues and will open to students this fall. It is part of the Clovis South Area, and students will attend the yet-to-be-named intermediate school and Clovis South High School, which are both under construction at Highland Avenue and the Clinton alignment in the Terry P. Bradley Educational Center.

The new schools will help to ease continued overcrowding in the district’s southeast portion and accommodate planned housing growth and increased student population coming to that area.

Hirayama staff will be at the event including all of the future kindergarten teachers.

“Our youngest students will be invited to sign a keepsake certificate expressing their commitment to educational excellence at Hirayama and beyond,” Reynolds said.

**WHAT:          Hirayama Elementary Kindergarten Signing Day**

WHEN:           Tuesday, April 16

                        3-6 p.m. (Open House)

WHERE:         Boris Elementary, 7071 E. Clinton Ave., Fresno, in the Technology Lab

                        (The signing is being held at sister school Boris as Hirayama is under construction.)

VISUALS:      Large photo backdrop, kindergartners sitting at the table (similar to an athletic signing), Hirayama staff, children in their oversized t-shirt with their graduation year (*see attachments*), families and more.

CONTACT:    Hirayama Principal Laura Reynolds will be onsite

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