



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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Poway Unified Launching New Japanese Programs with \$60,000 Grant

(Poway/San Diego, CA) – The Poway Unified School District (PUSD) is proud to announce that it is launching two new Japanese language and culture programs at Del Sur Elementary School (Del Sur) and Tierra Bonita Elementary School (Poway), made possible by a \$60,000 grant from the Japan Foundation.

On **Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 11am at Tierra Bonita Elementary School**, the Deputy Consulate-General of Japan, Kouichi Nakagawa, along with Yasuko Uchida, the Director of the Japan Foundation, will present a check to Poway Unified School District Superintendent, Board of Education members, and the Principals of Del Sur and Tierra Bonita Elementary.

Del Sur and Tierra Bonita Elementary Schools are both highly-regarded public K-5 elementary schools within the Poway Unified School District. Del Sur Elementary School, located in the Del Sur area of San Diego, is a National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished School. Principal Eric Takeshita, a 4th generation Japanese American, joined Del Sur in 2018, bringing with him over 24 years of experience in education. Del Sur is a technologically progressive school dedicated to providing high levels of learning and engagement for all students. Tierra Bonita Elementary School, located in the city of Poway, is an Apple Distinguished school. Since 2019, Principal Michele Tsutagawa-Ward, a 2nd generation Japanese American, has been supporting her teachers and students in the design thinking process and project-based learning.

“This partnership is a key component of Poway Unified realizing its vision of creating culture and conditions to empower world-class learners. We continue to expand our offerings, from Spanish to Mandarin, and now Japanese, as we prepare our future global citizens,” said Eddie Park, PUSD’s Director of Global Languages and Innovative Programs. The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles (JFLA) is a non-profit organization, funded by an endowment from the Japanese government, annual government subsidies, as well as private sector donations. The JFLA promotes international awareness and mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S. through cultural exchanges and they administer a wide range of programs and grants aimed at introducing Japanese arts and culture, supporting Japanese Studies and language education, and promoting publications, translations related to Japan.

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