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# MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Japanese School of Detroit to relocate to Novi**

*JSD to rent Novi Community School District facilities in new 10-year agreement*

**NOVI, Mich.**, December 16, 2010 – The Novi Community School District, the Japanese School of Detroit, and the City of Novi are pleased to announce the relocation of the Japanese School of Detroit (JSD) to Novi. The JSD will conduct classes at Novi Meadows Elementary beginning in the 2011/2012 school year under a 10-year agreement with the Novi Community School District (NCSD). JSD is a prestigious Saturday school which provides children the opportunity to receive a Japanese education, with courses being taught in the Japanese language.

The JSD was founded in 1973 by local Japanese companies with 23 students and a desire to give children of transfer employees a supplementary curricula so when they return to Japan the transition is as smooth as possible. Today, with more than 700 students, the JSD is one of the largest of its kind in the country. It is a private supplementary school operated by the non-profit organization, Detroit Ringo Kai, and administered by parent volunteers with assistance from the Japanese government and enterprises. Academic instruction is administered by principals who are accredited by the Japanese government (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) and provided with great commitment and dedication by locally employed instructors. Class instruction is facilitated 42 Saturdays a year and has been held in Birmingham for more than 30 years.

“Considering the fact the majority of Japanese families reside in close proximity to Novi, we believe moving to Novi is a mutual benefit for both the Japanese community and the City of Novi. We must not forget the good relationship we had with the Birmingham School District and thank them for all the kindness towards the Japanese community for many years, but we look forward to building a long-term friendship with the Novi Community School District and the beautiful City of Novi,” said Mr. Manabu Sato, President of Ringo Kai Japanese School of Detroit.

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The NCSD boasts a student population of approximately 6,300, of which a significant number are Japanese. The district, additionally, provides English as a Second Language classes and an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, bolstering Novi Community School Districts impressive reputation as a high-caliber public education choice that embraces and prepares its students for an increasingly globally-connected environment.

Through a 10-year agreement, the JSD will compensate the NCSD for classroom facilities on Saturdays and office space, Tuesday through Friday. The area is easily accessible from I-96, I-275, and US-23 and serves as a central destination for the majority of attendees in the metro region.

“We are very excited to host and partner with the Japanese School of Detroit,” notes Peter J. Dion, Superintendent, Novi Community School District. “We are committed to building bridges between the Japanese community and the diverse communities of the Novi Community School District, with the goal of being a great resource and partner to the students and families, while creating a lasting relationship.”

Additionally, Novi is the proud home to the largest Japanese population in Michigan and more than 45 Japanese-owned businesses. Japanese restaurants and retail are abundant in Novi. The relationship between the City, NCSD, the Consulate General of Japan, and the Japanese Business Society of Detroit have provided the opportunity for many cultural exchanges in the community, including hosting the Japan Festival for four years, drawing crowds of more than 5,000 at the events.

“It is partnerships and initiatives such as this which solidify Novi as a spirited community widely known for educational excellence and cultural diversity,” comments Novi Mayor David B. Landry. “Locating the Japanese School of Detroit in Novi will not only provide convenient access for its student population, but also place them and their families in close proximity to state-of-the-art resources such as a Japanese health care clinic at Providence Park Hospital, an assortment of cultural dining and fresh market venues, as well as shopping opportunities and our very own new Novi Public Library.”

For more information on the JSD, visit [jsd.org](http://jsd.org); the NCSD, visit [novi.k12.mi.us](http://novi.k12.mi.us); or the City of Novi, visit [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org).

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