Independent School District 197
West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Saturday, February 16, three of Kayo Hishitani's Japanese 4 students won first place in the Japan America Society of Minnesota's J-Quiz. In the photo above Ms. Hishitani, left, posed with the winning students (from left) seniors Dina Blumenfeld, Melissa Klocke and Tayo Johnson. This April, the students and Ms. Hishitani will be going to the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. While in D.C., they will also compete in a national competition.

Students Win First Place in
Japan America Society of Minnesota's J-Quiz

Henry Sibley seniors Dina Blumenfeld, Melissa Klocke and Tayo Johnson were up against some tough competition and questions at the Japan America Society of

Minnesota's J-Quiz at Eastview High in Apple Valley held on February 16. The J-Quiz is a quiz show format competition developed by the Japan America Society of Minnesota to test the ability of high school students who are studying the Japanese language. There were approximately 150 students from around the Twin Cities competing in teams answering questions regarding Japanese language, including grammar, vocabulary, kanji and kana (Japanese writing), geography and culture.

The same Henry Sibley team of Japanese students came in third place last year, and this year, the team came in first, despite tough competition and questions.
The students all plan to attend college next year. Dina wants to major in Japanese and art. Tayo plans to major in international business and Melissa will major in Japanese and possibly Physics. The questions that were the hardest according to the three were the cultural questions.

Henry Sibley High School is one of few high schools in the state offering Japanese language instruction. Henry Sibley's Japanese program is funded by the KCC-JEE (Kobe College Corporation - Japanese Education Exchange) In addition to paying the salary for the Japanese teacher, the organization promotes and organizes student exchanges between Henry Sibley High School and Kobe College High School.

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School District 197 serves the communities of Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, Sunfish Lake, and West St. Paul. For more information, visit www.isd197.org.