



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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MEDIA ADVISORY

October 17, 2005

District will dedicate new school named for San Diego's first Latino principal

Herbert Ibarra Elementary eases overcrowding

What: Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Herbert Ibarra Elementary School

When: Tuesday, October 18, 2005
5:00 p.m. (30 minutes)

Where: 4877 Orange Avenue (City Heights)
San Diego, CA 92115

**Speakers/
Dignitaries**

- **Dr. Carl Cohn**, Superintendent of San Diego City Schools
- **Shelia Jackson**, Member, Board of Education
- **Susie Sovereign**, Principal
- **Drew Ibarra** and **Lila Ibarra**, son and wife of the late Herbert Ibarra

**Background/
Significance**

Herbert Ibarra Elementary, a new school in City Heights, was built by Proposition MM, the \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by San Diego voters in 1998. The new school opened its doors on September 6, 2005, and represents a \$40 million investment in City Heights.

Herbert Ibarra was the first Latino principal in the district. When he was first appointed principal in 1971 at Memorial Junior High, only 11% of the district's student population was of Hispanic/Latino origin. At Herbert Ibarra Elementary, 75% of the student population is of Hispanic/Latino background.

The new school has reduced campus crowding at other nearby schools. Proposition MM is also funding construction of 14 other new and rebuilt schools, as well as renovation of 161 existing schools.

**Photos/Visuals/
Interviews**

- Students cutting the official ribbon
- Ibarra family members, parents, teachers, Superintendent, Board members