

Student Experiences

Published March, 2010

Dear Master Casser:

Just wanted to let you know that I am thrilled with my husband's participation in your facility and, more importantly with his absence from the house. I would sincerely request that, if possible, the training sessions be increased to daily encounters. This will increase his time away from home and make his family extremely happy and do wonders for our marriage.

Milena

Every time we hear the word Chon-Ji, it brings a big smile to our faces. My daughter and I started this journey on May 2008, and we have enjoyed every minute of our training together. It has become our mother-daughter quality time. Chon-Ji has lived up to it's name because it has become our sanctuary. We concentrate in learning and we leave all our problems behind. Not only have we developed physical strength, discipline, and high self esteem, but we have also become better people. With the release of stress we function better and we are more understanding and tolerant. We believe more in ourselves and our capabilities. We realize we have all these skills that were suppressed within us that we never knew we had. We have become more determined to reach our goals and we are less afraid to face the challenges out in the world. The instructors make sure that special care and attention is given to each individual, so that our skills are perfected. Also, rules and measures are taken to ensure our personal safety and well-being. We are proud to be part of such a professional and dedicated team. Chon-Ji, thank you for changing our lives, for the better, and extending our family.

Regards, Sandra and Alexa

Good morning Charlie, It's Cheryl, Paulie and Tommy's mom. In response to your email, I am extremely pleased with the boys' progress since they joined last year. To be honest, I've expressed to you how I worry about Tommy especially because of his disabilities, but I am so pleased with what I see them doing in your classes. They are excited to come to class and really look forward to it. You have had such a wonderful impact on them, ever since you told them not to drink soda, they haven't!! They really respect you and what you say, so keep up the good work. I truly look forward to watching them progress each week..it is so nice to see them finding success with such a worthwhile activity.

Now as far as the pain in the ass, who you know as Mike, don't forget to call him and remind him that I'm not paying for him to sit home on his ass.....I was going to text you, but I couldn't get a hold of his phone to find your number, so this email was perfect timing.

Anyway, we are all so pleased with the experience, and honestly, you are a riot.....you are like a one man show and it is obvious that the class really responds well to you.

See you later....Cheryl

Obviously, I think the school is great. Raymond will be 7 on February 12 and as you may recall, he signed up shortly after his 4th birthday. He truly loves coming to the school – in fact, when he schedule started filling up with other organized sports and homework, he always said he “would never ever quit karate.” He really has his goal set on becoming a black belt someday.

When Raymond enrolled I was a little nervous because I was new to the program. I was under the assumption that the school ran in “cycles” that all white belts started together, etc. I didn’t know how Raymond would follow along with kids that had been taking the classes for months before him. I was amazed that he learned by your instruction and by following along. He was never made to feel that he wasn’t getting it, or that he was behind. He assimilated to the class and its structure without a hitch.

Raymond has benefited tremendously from being an active participant in tae kwon do. I have witnessed his coordination improve right before my eyes. All of the “games” that he only sees as fun, I know now were all benefitting him with balance, timing and coordination. Ray and I just noticed the other day, that now his jumping jacks are perfect, do you remember what they were like at 4? I owe that to you guys!

Now, I have Christopher enrolled and at 4 years old, he along with Aidan are the youngest of the bunch. I think that has been a little bit of a challenge for Christopher. He wants to be as good as everyone else, but a lot of the kids are 6 years old, so even if he wanted to be as good, physically he is a little limited. I will say this, Christopher is not at all intimidated by the age difference, it’s just more of a challenge. He loves coming to class and I know it has given him a little more self confidence (something he definitely needs more of, especially being in Raymond’s shadow). Your encouragement goes a long way with him. He comes out beaming if he thinks he did well.

I will be honest with you, as a parent, I get frustrated with some of the other kids behavior in the class. I know some of them are special needs kids, but it can be disruptive. My kids have a hard time understanding why some kids can behave a certain way and “get away with it” and they can’t. I did my best to explain to them that some kids have brains that work a little bit differently than theirs. That sometimes they learn and act differently, but that doesn’t mean they are not the same as any other kid.... And therefore they have to treat them just like they would anyone else. Some of the other kids, well they are not special needs kids, they are just spoiled little pains... you and I know who they are, and there’s nothing you can do about that, I know. It can just get tiring to watch them and their parents in the waiting area not even thinking about it.... But again, there isn’t much you or I can do about that!

I also notice a HUGE difference in the kids and their behavior when you are facilitating the classes. Mr. Johnson is a great asset to your team of instructors – he is great with the kids (especially the ninjas). The other younger instructors are probably better suited for the older kids – the ninjas need a little more instruction and a little slower pace. I noticed Christopher getting lost in the shuffle a few times when some of the other younger instructors lead the class.

I’m very happy that the school isn’t run like a military camp – while I definitely want respect and discipline instilled in both Raymond & Christopher I also wasn’t looking for a school that intimidates – which many of the Korean schools do. It’s my job as a parent to teach my kids respect and discipline, but it helps tremendously for them to have it reinforced by you. Believe me, I’ve used your name a few times to scare the crap out of my kids – for example, if Christopher talks back to me I will ask him, “Do you speak to Mr. D like that? Would Mr. D approve of your tone of voice? I will CALL MR. D RIGHT NOW and tell him how you are behaving”.... Works like a charm!

The addition of the ninjas class on Monday has helped me out quite a bit. Having a ninjas class back-to-back with Raymond’s does wonders for my schedule. Having both boys there for back-to-back classes is awesome, so thank you for that!

I have recommended your school without hesitation. I hope my boys stick with it for many, many more years! I only can hope you enjoy having them in class as much as they enjoy coming!

Hope the input helps,

Sue DeBiosa

Proud mom of Little Ninja Christopher and Blue Belt Raymond ;)

Dear Charlie,

I would love to tell you about my experience with your program. My three boys started your program in May 2009. Let me tell you the adjustment was tough for two for them. Anthony (11) and Ryan (9) both came from another school which was lacking in many areas. They could not spar and had very little stamina. They came in as brown belts and were nowhere near the level of the children in your school. They were very intimidated when it came to sparring. Basically they got their butts kicked every time they sparred. But they stuck with it and have gained a lot of confidence.

Think about when people see a brown belt in your school you have certain expectations when it comes to sparring. Ryan would want Friday to be one of his days to go to tae kwon do because it was no fight Fridays. Now it is not an issue and he likes to go. The work outs are challenging, the games fun and they enjoy all aspects of the class.

Anthony learned that if you keep trying you will get better. It was very frustrating to have lower belts be better than you. He didn't give up and will be getting his skunk belt soon. He is very proud of his progress and is very comfortable about his ability to persevere.

Now my third son David was dragged to the trial class and this was no easy task. He told me in no uncertain terms that he was not going and I could not make him. You must understand he saw the other tae kwon do school my boys went to and he wanted no part of it. I wanted the free uniform. Well after the first trial class he loved it and enjoys it more than his brothers.

David is thirteen and attends the adult classes. He enjoys sparring and the workouts and the games. He has gained confidence and has become more outgoing. It is enjoyable to watch the change in David. He has an older brother who would be like an older brother and want to wrestle him. His brother is ten years older and would torment David. Let's just say that that is not the case anymore. David holds his own and has even gotten his brother to give up.

Your school has taught all my sons many things, but the most important is to have confidence. Confidence in yourself is so important because it means that you don't have to fight. But as a mom it's nice to know that when and if needed my children can handle themselves.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gomez

I've been trying to encourage my high school age daughter to exercise for a long time. She always seemed too busy with school and never found the time to do anything active, except skiing during winter break. Last year she found it a little harder to keep up skiing, maybe it was because she had a cold. This fall she finally asked to join tae kwon do so she could get into better shape. I think it's because she saw how strong and fit her brothers have become from taking tae kwon do. She didn't seem too enthusiastic at first, but the other day she was really excited to bring home her request for sparring gear. I'm so glad she finally found a form of exercise she is enjoying and wants to continue!

Sharon Oshin

Actually, due to your excellent program, I now fit into clothes from 15 years ago... love your current curriculum - focusing on one technique for a couple of weeks and spending a good amount of time on drills really works for me.

Anonymous

I had never set foot inside a martial arts class. I had no idea what to expect when my son John asked me if he could try a class. He had seen several children going into the studio and wanted to try. I was hesitant since John was the quiet and sensitive one of my three children. He was drawn instantly by the supportive and nurturing atmosphere. He has become a more well rounded, confident and outgoing individual since his first class in September. Both his teachers and his Grandparents have noticed his self-esteem growth. He is proud of each of his belts and the training it took to get them. Thank you for giving John this boost.

Pam and John King