

## PARENTS & JUNIORS - WELCOME TO RED TIGER KARATE

**ABOUT RED TIGER KARATE:** Our passion is to provide high quality programs that promote character development, physical fitness, and life skills for children and adults through the study of American Karate. Our year-round program focuses on the art, sport, and self-defense aspects of karate. We offer a complete white through black belt system taught in an upbeat and positive atmosphere. We teach at community facilities in a number of North Texas cities.

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:** Robert Margach began his martial arts training in 1973. He is a Certified Master Black Belt in various martial art styles with over 20 years of teaching experience. His goal is to help each student succeed in the martial arts and to reach their personal best. Feel free to contact him about any individual issues as training progresses.

**PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** Parents are responsible for: 1) Knowing our weekly announcements. Announcements are posted on our website Newsletter every Monday and also announced in class. 2) Printing the Junior Study Sheet from our website "Resources" page. We also have paper copies if you do not have internet access.

**PARENTS:** Please arrive about 15 minutes before class so your child can go to the restroom, tie belt, and take shoes off, etc. before class bow in. Your child will not receive the hour credit towards belt test if they are late. If small siblings are watching class, please try to keep them as quiet as possible and away from the training areas. **Also, please take cell phone calls outside. Do not try to help your child during class and do not come out onto the dojo floor.** This will enable the students to focus their attention on the instructor. We do encourage you to help your child practice at home.

**PLEASE ENSURE SAFETY:** Please pick up your child in the training room after class safety reasons. Parents should be present in the training room about 15 minutes before class end for announcements. This policy also allows us to discuss any individual issues if necessary.

Karate is a contact sport. Safety is the #1 priority in class. At mid-session, the students will begin to practice playing a game of touch tag with each other using the techniques learned in class. Appropriate safety gear is provided in class and all contact is closely supervised. No contact is allowed to the face or groin. To ensure safety however, parents must provide a mouthpiece and cup supporter (for boys). Parents may purchase these items from the instructor when the sparring lessons begin. It's worth noting that according to the United States Product Commission, karate is one of the safest recreational activities in the United States.

**RESPECT:** Students should always address instructors as Mr., Sir, or Ms., Ma'am as appropriate. Always practice with safety and respect towards your instructors and classmates. No horseplay before, during, or after class. Children should not run up and down the floor before or after class. For safety reasons, no jewelry, no rings, and no gum during class.

**UNIFORM:** Before the fifth week of class the students must have their **FIRST NAME IN ALL CAPITAL, 2 inch black,** block style letters on the back of their uniform top (in between shoulder blades). As an optional convenience for you, an embroidery service will pickup, embroider, and then return the uniform to class the following week. We will announce in class (and on our web site) when they will be attending your class. Of course, you are free to use a professional shop of your choice. No hand printing, no computer letters, and no photos on the uniform. Please wash the uniform in cold water, no bleach. Please do not wash the belt.

**UNIFORM PATCHES:** Junior students who have earned straight A's or at the most two B's on their school report cards are eligible for an "**A-Team**" patch (worn on the left sleeve). This patch was designed to motivate students toward academic achievement. Students who win three first place tournament awards within one year will be eligible to wear a **Black Ace patch** (worn on the right sleeve). There is an additional cost for A-Team and Black Ace patches.

**COMPETITION PANTS:** Junior students are eligible to order competition black pants. Competition pants can be worn in class on sparring days, tournaments, ninja camps, and seminars.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Tournaments, belt tests, ninja camps, and martial art shows are special optional events that make training exciting for the students. There are additional fees for these events.

**Tournaments:** We have a tournament once per semester (four times per year). They are "winners' tournaments" where every contestant earns an award, which helps develop self-esteem and confidence. Please emphasize to your child that winning is not as important as good sportsmanship & doing his or her best. Tournaments are not a requirement for class participation, but are required to advance in rank.

**Belt Rank Tests:** Belt tests usually take place two weeks after the tournament. To be eligible for belt test, the student must have the minimum class hours, tournament requirements, be doing well at home/school, and have a good attitude in karate class. Nominations are awarded to eligible students a week after each tournament. Belt tests are not a requirement for class.