



Notes on new testing policy for Blue Dragon and Lil'Dragons Programs at Blue Dragon Martial Arts- effective 10-1-11

A copy of the belt requirements can be found on the website or at the Dojo.

For current students-If new skip to pg 2.....In the past, Sensei Kim has "pre-tested" EVERY student to be sure they were ready to test and would basically be sure to pass, then gave the permission slip to be signed. This made test days pretty easy and most everyone passed but it has also created a few issues we want to address and fix with this new policy and way of handling testing in the future.... More like how all other tests are handled- we tell you what the test will be on, when and where, you practice and be prepared to test on test day:)

- The first issue- it was taking up too much regular class time to pre-check every student, multiple times, trying to give everyone a chance to be ready, sometimes at the last minute.
- The second- it was not making the student responsible for their testing and practice. That was creating bad habits for some, were neither the student nor their parent knew what they were to be tested on, let alone what they should have been practicing and how often.

So, now we are doing test much like any other test. Just like at school when your child has a spelling test. The teacher teaches and explains when the test is and what is expected in class, the student pays attention and learns and practices in class, homework is sent home to practice, sometimes with the parent's help and then the student must be ready, on test day or they will not pass, pretty straight forward.

We hope everyone agrees that the students wanting to test and progress in belt ranks at Blue Dragon must be responsible for:

- Pay attention IN class to learn techniques being taught.
- Answer and have proper manners in class to get permission from Sensei.
- Must know WHAT requirements they need for their next rank.
- Must practice what is needed at home, enough to be ready to test.
- Must maintain what they have been tested on in the past, as they build on each other and students will always be asked to show past techniques.

- Lastly, students must keep up grades to be able to test and have good behavior at school and home so the school teacher and the parent will both sign the permission slip.

We agree the Instructors must:

- Teach what is needed for belt progress, in class and make every effort to provide each student with the opportunity to succeed within their abilities. (all students must meet the min. requirements regardless, some may just take more time than others.)
- Be available for students and parents to ask for extra help or ask questions.
- Pay attention to students progress, manners, behavior and techniques in class and encourage and guide the student as needed.
- Provide supplemental material and ways to help individuals - we have videos on the website, hand-outs, open mat, private lessons, charts, student handbook, etc...all ways to help your child progress.

...and Parents should:

- Get them to enough classes, on time and in their uniform with all equipment (this is also the students responsibility), so they have the instruction needed to progress. (twice a week is min, to keep up.)
- Help direct them to get the info they need to test (the requirements) and ask them to show you what they need, or are working on.
- Make them practice at least 5 min. 3 times a week - proper technique and focus. As they get to higher ranks this will need to be increased to be prepared.
- Help them get enough sleep, exercise and eat healthy. (Much depends on the age of your child for how much is their responsibility but knowing what they need to test is for sure theirs, they just might need some help from you.)

For the beginners:

- Sensei Kim will still help and pre-test Lil' Dragons for their Yellow Stripe and Blue Stripe and Blue Dragons for their Yellow Belt.
- Two weeks prior to the test, she will start to check them and send home "what they need to work on" sheets if they are not yet ready or permission slips if they are.
- They must return and show they know the requirements at least, the week prior to the test to get a permission slip after that it's too late and they must wait for the next test.

We test every 8 weeks so it is fine to miss a test or wait if you are not prepared. Check the live Google Calendar on our website for dates and times.

For the students after the first beginner test.....

- About 2 weeks before the next scheduled test, Sensei will begin giving permission slips to students that have proper behavior in class and good attendance.
- Students that were given permission slips must return the slip, with payment, signed by their parent and a school teacher on test day.
- They must show up on time, with all equipment and their complete uniform.
- They will be tested on all belt requirements and may be asked to show past requirements. As the belt rank becomes higher and the student older, they will be held to higher standards of discipline, effort, manners and technique.
- They must answer, focus and do their best at the test.
- If any of these requirements is not met the student will not pass their test. They may either try for the make-up test Weds. or test at the next scheduled test in 8 weeks. (you will be given a payment voucher if it was a paid test.)

Here are some details, tips and more....

- If your student is at the first belt they will be pre-tested so if they come home with a permission slip they are ready to test, according to their behavior in class AND know the requirements.
- If your student is passed their first test, a permission slip means only that their behavior is good in class - you and your child need to know and decide if they know the requirements to pass the test.
- There are a few belts that have extra requirements like: the responsibility or community service patch...obviously, your student is responsible to know if those are required and how to get them.
- Same for the fitness test - only you and your student will know if they have been working on this and are ready to pass. Fitness and health are important for Martial Arts and LIFE!
- Students that cannot make the Sat. morning test or do not pass may come to the make-up test the following Weds. Lil' Dragons at 4:30pm Blue at 5pm.
- We are always here to help so feel free to ask, send a note, email or call to talk to Sensei if needed.
- Some student keep a journal of what they practiced in class and what they need to work on. This is very helpful!
- Private lessons go a long way if your student is struggling a bit:)

- If your child only comes once a week, (esp. the Lil'Dragons) they should not expect to be able to test at every test. Most students come 2-3 classes per week to test every 8 weeks, even with home practice.
- We have a live Google calendar that is kept up to date with classes, PNO, closures, events, tests and more...check it out, you can even sync to your smart phone!
- Follow us on Twitter too- we update that weekly with upcoming events too. @BlueDragonKids.
- There are videos on the website of most basics so your child can practice at home with your permission.
- You can print out (or just read online) the Student Handbook 2010 PDF off the website. Inside there are also copies of the permission form and other hand-outs.
- Be sure you have a copy of the newest vocabulary and belt requirements. Ask for a copy at the Dojo. We hope to have a link on the website in the next week.

We believe every student can reach their goals whether it is to be more focused and confident , fitness and health , better grades in school, STORM team or even their Black Belt!.... but we believe to make those goals meaningful is not to just "lower the bar" so all student can just step over it with ease but to hold it at an age appropriate level and help the students rise to the challenge. Meaningful accomplishments require effort and often hard work, let's all work together to help our students and children reach their goals!

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sensei Kim

10-12-11