

My Journey to a Black Belt

I started Taekwondo when I was four years old. I started with 2 friends and they both quit, but I stuck with it to reach my goal of getting my black belt. I started in Little Dragons and it was really, really fun. When I first started, I thought it would be really hard, but it was easy. It was a smooth start. It was hard work, but Master Shawn made it fun for us. During a class, Master Shawn gave me one of his medals that he won at a master competition. I was really good and I was focusing a lot. This made me happy that he gave me the medal. In Little Dragons, every time you would come to class you would get a check mark and when you reach 10, you would get a colored star. If you pass all of those then you get a red, white and blue star. I was the first one to get this star and it was hard to get. I still have my stars.

Taekwondo has taught me how to use sparring and self-defense if someone attacks me or my family. It has taught me how to show respect, honesty and focus. It makes me feel proud of myself. I tell my friends about it and some of them have started taekwondo.

I was getting really tired because every day of the week I never got a break, so I stopped taekwondo for 3 weeks and then I went back. I am happy that I went back, because if I had not gone back, I would have never got my black belt. I went back to taekwondo, because I remembered my goal of becoming a black belt.

One of my best helpers was Ms. Melissa. She helped me with black belt training because it was really hard. She made me feel happy and like I knew how to do the moves. Master Shawn has been helping me in almost every class. I think he is really nice and I want to be like him when I grow up. When I do a kick, Master Mitch say great job Ethan and encourages me. Master Eunae has helped me correct my moves if they are wrong. Master Jung has made it challenging and fun for me.

After I get my black belt, I want to show it to my friends. I will be proud and then I will try out for the demo team. When I get older, I want to teach taekwondo.

I am so happy that I started taekwondo. At school, I showed all of my belts to my class and they had no clue that I had so many belts. My grandma and grandpa got me a belt holder to hold all of my belts. I am running out of room already and need to get another holder.

I think JL Taekwondo is the best place ever because the masters are nice and they care about everyone. They are really, really good teachers. When something is really, really hard they help me with it. I have learned a lot of cool moves. My favorite is the beaming roundhouse kick. I feel very proud of myself for getting my black belt.

It was really hard to earn all of my belts and if you are just starting white belt is the easiest and the other belts on top of you keep getting harder and harder.

Ethan Goldstein