

# EMS "Karate Kids" Kick Into Action

For Raven Shotts, an important goal was set and accomplished early in life. When Raven was eight years old she decided to learn Tae Kwon Do. This activity started as just a "family thing," with everyone in her family participating except her mother. Raven, her older brother, and her father have come a long way since then, earning black belts. Raven has also started another form of martial arts, Hap Ki Do. "The biggest benefit is learning self-defense," said Raven, who spends five days a week to work on these two forms of fighting.

Raven is not the only one at East who has earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Eighth grade student Cory Pierce not only achieved his black belt but was also the first black belt student that Gentry Martial Arts studio in Martinsville ever had. Cory started Tae Kwon Do at age seven when he was able to watch a class and decided that it looked like fun.

Sixth grader Griffin Selch also has a black belt. Griffin started Tae Kwon Do when he was six years old. He was inspired to start because of watching movies with this type of fighting, and he thought it would be interesting. Griffin's favorite part of Tae Kwon Do is kicking. For Griffin, Tae Kwon Do makes it easier to deal with bullies, teaches self-discipline, and teaches self-defense. He has earned gold in sparring at a tournament.



Another black belt is eighth grader Cameron Adamson. He started Tae Kwon Do three years ago when his friend, Ryan Clark, invited him to a party at Gentry Martial Arts. The aspect of Tae Kwon Do that Cameron enjoys most is sparring, and he occasionally goes to tournaments to compete. Along with Tae Kwon Do, he is also involved with track, soccer, swimming, and biking at East.

In addition to Griffin Selch, there is one more sixth grader with a black belt. Jared Holt started Tae Kwon Do when he was six years old. He started because he was inspired by Jackie Chan. His favorite part of Tae Kwon Do is breaking boards and sparring. "It is really fun. It helps in school and helps your self-confidence," Holt said.

**Any student interested in learning martial arts should contact Gentry Martial Arts at (765)-342-5600.**

*By Gracie Elliott*

**Seventh grader Raven Shotts prepares to break four boards using her explosive step-side kick. (Top) Earning his brown belt stripe, fourth grader Caleb Allen poses for a picture with Grandmaster Young Sik Choi, a ninth degree black belt. (Bottom)**

*By Gilberti and Allen*



**Fighting the urge to laugh, seventh grader Alison Ratz takes part in Mr. Clark Hadley's "listening through your teeth" experiment during eighth period science.**  
*By Claire Brumback*

## Faces in the Hallway

**Name:** Summer McFarland  
**Grade:** 7th  
**Birthday:** Sept. 27, 1994  
**Age:** 13  
**Favorite color:** Black  
**Sport to watch:** Ice skating  
**Favorite food:** Pizza  
**College to attend:** IU  
**Role model:** Johnny Depp  
**Favorite Candy:** Skittles  
**Pets:** Five cats, one dog, and two fish

**Best friend:** Katie Lopossa  
*By Jennifer Parker*



## Faces in the Hallway

**Name:** Dayle Neitzel  
**Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup>  
**Birthday:** Aug. 26, 1993  
**Age:** 14



**Favorite drink:** Pepsi  
**Favorite book:** *Twilight* by Erin Hunter  
**Favorite movie:** *Rain of Fire*  
**Favorite color:** Blue  
**Favorite sport to play:** Swimming  
**Favorite song:** "Once in Every Lifetime" by Jem  
**Favorite vacation spot:** Lincoln Park in Santa Claus, IN  
**Favorite school subject:** Social studies  
**Dream job:** Livestock veterinarian  
*By Sydney Race*