



GMA News June 16

Break-a-thon Results

Thank you to everyone who worked very hard to make our break a thon and annual picnic a success. Especially this year, thanks to everyone for braving the unusually cold weather. Our final tally was approximately \$2, 100. A special thanks to our sponsor lumber companies who donated part of the wood: 84 lumber and Bender Lumber. Please relay your appreciation to them.

SUMMER ATTENDANCE REWARD and Referral Program

As usual we have our summer attendance reward program starting in June. Look for details on how you can be a part of a celebration at the end of the summer for strong attendance during the hot summer months. We also have a special summer referral program. See the handout in class for details.

THANK YOU TO MISS WILLIAMS, Welcome Miss Megan Gens

As Miss Morgan Williams graduates high school and prepares for additional education towards a career, she is stepping down as a formal instructor. Many of our students are indebted to her for her service and caring here. As she steps down from this formal position, Miss Megan Gens will be auditioning for the position this month. Please welcome her as part of the team.

Upcoming Events

June 4th	Hoosier open BJJ tournament
June 4 th	Bedford TKD tournament
June 8 th	Lil Dragon Testing (beg 4:30, int/adv 5:30)
June 11 th	Demo Team practice 10:00-11:30
June 13 th	TMNT II Movie night. 7:00 pm No classes TKD or HKD that evening.
June 20-22	Lil Dragon daycamp 9:00-1:00 pm
June 23-24	Kids BJJ camp 9:00-3:30
June 24-26	GM William CC Chen Tai chi seminar- bloomington
June 27-July 1	TKD daycamp 9:00-3:30
June 28 th	HKD testing
July 2 nd	Stickfighting 9:00-11:30
July 2 nd	BB prep class 11:30-1:00
July 12-14	Parkour and More camp 9:00-3:30
July 20-22	HKD daycamp 9:00-3:30
July 25-29	TKD daycamp 9:00-3:30

Parkour and More Camp added to our Summer Offerings

In addition to our regular day camps where students can gain make serious progress in the ranks through intensive sessions, we are going to have a little fun as well. We are excited to announce a parkour and more camp, featuring guest instructor, Adam Rector, who is on the martial arts faculty at IU. The camp will help with all types of martial movement, and exercises to challenge the body is taken from several different martial arts as well as parkour. Learn new skills and become a better martial athlete.

Fathers' day invitation

After inviting the mothers to join the kids in class for mother's day, we would be in trouble if we didn't offer the same to our fathers. Dads, Grand-dads, etc. are welcome to join their kids in class the week following Fathers day—June 20-25



Training Anniversary

Congrats to those students who are celebrating a year or multiple years of training with us:

Noah Wilson (TKD 13 yrs, BJJ 7 yrs)	Andy Farmer (LD, TKD 3 yrs)	Christian Marion (BJJ 3 years)
Soliel Patterson (BJJ 1 yr)	Izabella Perason (LD 1 yr)	Debbie Rahman (HKD 1 yr)

Happy Birthday to these students

Jim Stagers	6-4	Kevin Biddle	6-8	Corey Trudeau	6-9
Luke Kachelmeyer	6-10	Kerry Meier	6-13	Adam Satter	6-14
Fisher Dunscombe	6-16	Mason Blackmon	6-16	Morgan Williams	6-19
Dominick Spires	6-19	Derek Hanesworkth	6-23	Martina Ruba	6-26
Kaden Fisher	6-27	Katherine Satter	6-27		

Quotes of the week—to go along with this month’s article, we will be discussing the impact and value of life lessons and positive habits have over a lifetime.

Please keep us posted

A reminder as summer approaches: if you have vacation plans, we would appreciate being kept informed, so we don’t worry if we miss you in classes. Thanks.

This Month in Martial Arts History (selected from “Dates with Destiny” in *Martial Arts Success* by John Corcoran.

June 15, 1917	Birthday of American jiu-jitsu pioneer Wally Jay
June 1961	Black belt magazine is founded
June 1978	“Good Guys Wear Black” first features Chuck Norris as the star
June 22, 1984	Karate Kid debuts—forever changing the perception and demographics of martial arts in America
	Karate II and III are released in June 1986 and 1989 respectively. As well as the remake in 2010.

Other June movie releases include *Mulan* (1998) and *Kung Fu Panda* (2008).



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Placing a Value on Your Martial Arts Certificate.

GMA, like many of you at this time of year, is celebrating the high school graduation of three upper ranks whom we watched grow up in our school. Many of our friends and family are showing off their diploma, a piece of paper certifying their achievement. As many of you are aware, our school has undergone a transition recently, the driving factor being an effort to control certification costs for our own students. Keep in mind, I have dropped more for a weekend seminar than the price of these testing fees in dispute. So I don’t mind paying for knowledge. And I have amassed quite a



few certificates and paid for all of them—either directly through a testing fee or indirectly through paying for lots of lessons/seminars making me eligible. Mostly both. But what was it I was really paying for, and what is that worth?

I could easily have “paid” for other certificates...but that was just what I would have been doing...paying for another piece of paper with little to no effort. I don’t need another piece of paper that badly. There are always those ego driven people who will gladly chase the next piece of paper—a weekend certification in something that takes legitimate students years, or another pay-your-way-in hall of fame. Some delude themselves into thinking those papers are actually magic talismans capable of blinding others so they don’t see the poor skills or shielding them from actual blows in real life. But to me, never was a truer example of the phrase not worth the paper they are printed on. No real knowledge comes with it.

Real knowledge today typically does come with a price—just look at college tuition! And there is a difference in price between Harvard and your typical state school. Sometime that price difference is warranted, and if you want the best, you pay the premium. But sometimes your state school actually has a better program than Harvard, and in that field a diploma from your state school might actually carry more weight and a fraction of the cost. You simply aren’t paying for the brand name you are familiar with. And of course, a lot of it depends on the type of degree you are getting—some majors are a lot more marketable than others. But knowledge and experience comes with a price. The diploma is a symbol and a culmination of that the growth that is supposed to have happened.

As we are well below the national average for tuition, this doesn’t happen often, but recently we had a family stop in and balk at the price of tuition. We couldn’t get the mom to see the difference between price and value. What is the value of your child gaining the confidence to try new things and challenge himself? What monetary price is your daughter’s safety worth? When does your child learning goal setting, perseverance and fighting spirit, leadership qualities, a commitment to bettering themselves, the habits of being both mentally and physically stronger, and all the other life lessons of martial arts, become too steep of an investment? But at the same time, we realize families have to budget, and we strive to find the balance.

It has been a while since I offered this deal to our black belts, but I offer them a refund for all their money spent on martial arts, but in exchange they had to return all their knowledge, and more importantly, all the life lessons and growth that the martial arts has given them, would they take the deal? I don’t recall anyone ever taking this hypothetical deal. Obviously I teach martial arts because they helped me become of the person I am today, and I believe in the transformative power that lies behind the lessons on the mats.

In the end, it is about the quality of the training and the growth that happens as you reach those milestones, not about whose name is on the diploma or certificate. We acknowledge that certain names or certain pieces of paper carry more weight in the field. Just like college, you want your martial arts certificate to be “accredited”. And we certainly want the best for our students, but at a reasonable cost. We believe we have the right balance, and the everyday experience in our classes hasn’t changed. But the real value is the experience behind the paper and what you do with it.