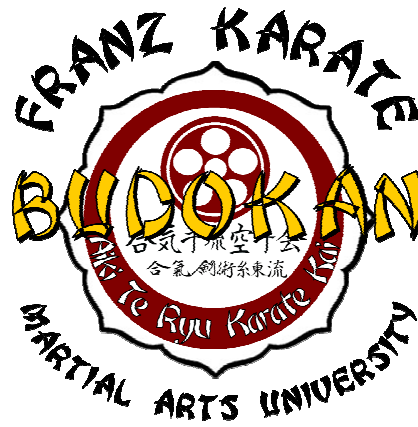


Confidence
Honor
Attitude
Respect
Attention
Coordination
Training
Effort
Responsibility



From The Desk of Franz Shihan

The 12 Secrets of Black Belt Parents

Secret #1: Black Belt Parents never interact with their children during class. They realize that watching a martial arts class is just like observing their child in regular school and the Sensei is the only person in charge. Interrupting or interacting with their child would be disrespectful to the Sensei and distracting to all of the students. Please refrain from all interaction unless asked by the Sensei to do so.

Secret #2: Black Belt Parents always bring something quiet to do during their child's class. They know that talking is disruptive to the class and to other parents who are reading or working quietly. If Black Belt Parents want to socialize, they go outside until the class period is over. Parents and guests watch and wait in the seating area only. Black Belt Parents do not stand or wait by the door, in front counter or in the coffee area.

Secret #3: Black Belt Parents always keep their future black belts and Kid Tigers-to be (ages 0 and up), under control and quiet during older siblings class. Crying, screaming or rowdy children can be a major distraction to class. Black Belt Parents know this and always take overly enthusiastic little ones outside.

Secret #4: Black Belt Parents realize that Budokan Dojo Martial Arts University is not a day-care center. They drop off and pick up their children promptly. They realize that our staff will not be responsible for their children left unattended before and after classes. If a child must unavoidably be left before or after time Black Belt Parents always alert the staff and make sure that their child knows where to sit quietly and wait.

Secret #5: Black Belt Parents know how and faithfully practice all school rules and policies. They follow and enforce these rules with their children. When Mom and Dad follow the dojo rules and regulations; then their child is more likely to follow their example. This starts at the front door, where everyone is to bow and greet the instructors when entering and leaving.

Secret #6: Black Belt Parents pay attention to what their children are learning in class and reinforce their positive behavior at home. They realize that, as parents, they are an important part of the Sensei's team, and they help their children to improve by working with the instructor's and by staying informed.

Secret #7: Black Belt Parents know that their child is an individual who will progress at their own rate. They never compare a child to their sibling or other student at anytime. They encourage and support each child's progress and help them to set and achieve realistic goals. They never ridicule or belittle any Sensei at anytime for they know the child and themselves are responsible for improvement of skill...not the Sensei.

Secret #8: Black Belt Parents remember why their child joined in the first place. It was not to just memorize kata, but to improve themselves as people. Black Belt Parents are never harsh or pushy with the Sensei about how fast their child is learning. Black Belt Parents know that memorizing is not necessary or important. They take a moment to see how their child is improving as a whole person, realizing that belt examinations is just a part of the big picture. They realize that only the Sensei can and will state when a child is permitted to be examined for their next belt.

Secret #9: Black Belt Parents know that if they have a concern about their child's training, progress, or about the school, they should go directly to the Sensei, not to other parents. Black Belt Parents never start or participate in gossip. In fact, they do their best to stamp it out. This is dishonorable and rude and Black Belt Parents realize that if they fail to discuss it with the Sensei then it is ultimately their own fault if their child fails to progress.

Secret #10: Black Belt Parents are encouraging to all of the students in the school during class, promotion, and demonstrations. They know that through their example their children will also learn to encourage and support everyone in the Budokan Martial Arts University, together as a family or RYU!

Secret #11: Black Belt Parents always make sure that they and their children show respect and courtesy when attending tournaments and other martial arts functions. They especially avoid confrontations with judges and other parents. Showing respect and courtesy is a great way to teach their children to be good sportsman, whether they win or lose. If they do have a concern, they respectfully take it to the tournament director or to an event staff member.

Secret #12: Black Belt Parents will always help their children set goals both in and out of martial arts. Black Belt Parents set martial arts goals with their children. They also plan life goals. Black Belt Parents know what goal setting will help their children develop the perseverance and self discipline needed to stick to commitments and achieve great personal success. They also stick to attending the required classes at the dojo no matter what as this is part of the discipline learning process. Black Belt Parents also attend all mandatory functions at the dojo as set forth by the Sensei at all times with no excuses.