



Queens Taekwon-Do Center

Affiliated to the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) and the National Taekwon-Do Association -ITF (NTA-ITF)

April 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Students:

One more week surviving this pandemic that afflicts our world. One more week of forced unity at home. One more week of both positive and negative circumstances brought to our families and countries. Nevertheless, we are still present today and we must thank God—whatever his representation in our hearts.

I want to thank again the parents and students for the support you have given us during these weeks. It has not been easy for anyone. The virtual classes are not easy, for several reasons that I have explained in my reports, previously. I hope you understand. Yet, the virtual class is a tremendous help, and the method we are using at the moment when there are restrictions on the distance that we must maintain. Unfortunately, communicating with one another through an electronic receiver can never replace those feelings that can only be expressed live. We can see but we cannot feel. When we are face to face, we can touch, feel, and correct in a manner suitable for the activity we are doing. This is a major difference.

Various other external factors easily distract students, such as TV, phones, tablets, siblings, family, space limitations, pets, etc. And it must be added that the reception is at times low, preventing adequate audio communication or interfering with the internet connection itself. Moreover, we as parents give students the responsibility of working conscientiously, forgetting they are still children who are easily distracted. If this is true for live classes, imagine its effect in a virtual setting!

I think parents and family are as important to holding a successful class, as it is the responsibility of the instructors. We, as parents and family, are an important part of the process. As an instructor, it is frustrating to see students present just because parents need to keep them busy; it is easy, therefore, to delegate responsibility to someone to the instructor. But the problem ensues when we see a frustrated instructor speaking loudly and negative criticism begins. These negative reviews are the least thing we should listen to now. Rather we should try to do everything possible so that our children participate in the classes positively and participate in a positive activity during these difficult times. Of course, not all students are the same. Most would say 90% of those participating in class do things right while the remaining 10% should, with the help of the parents and family, take the process more seriously. Let's not blame the instructors. Education begins at home. Congratulations to those students who have worked especially hard and have not missed any classes. This demonstrates our responsibility to commitment and that understanding that life must continue as we take on new challenges and modification to our lifestyle. We believe that we have made significant progress despite our limitations.

Some of you may have noticed on Friday, a screen appeared upon entering the class: "Please wait, the meeting host will let you in soon." This is only to avoid interrupting the prior class that is still in session. Please do not leave the meeting room. Once the previous class is completed, the organizer will admit you to the classroom. Thanks for your understanding.

I also want to share that we have posted on our website a series of videos for all color belt patterns. This is a great resource provided by Mr. Michael Rivera (V Dan) of Puerto Rico. To view the videos please go to www.QTC-ITF.com/media.

Lastly, I know that the situation is not easy. Many of us, including myself, are not working or bringing in income. For some, our resources are beginning to grow scarce and the anxiety of the situation is increasing. I want to recommend that, despite these adverse circumstances, it is imperative to stay home, stay positive, and remember that this is not over. Reopening the economy too quickly can easily bring a return of the crisis and worsen the already dire consequences we are living with at the moment. Please remember to wash your hands, stay home, stay healthy, and protect one another. With patience, perseverance and understanding we will recover and be together again soon.

A virtual hug to all of you. God bless you.

Sincerely

Grand Master Ruben Suarez
Director, Queens Taekwon-Do Center