

My Karate Journey, Part 11: Nothing is Free!

Fun is ALWAYS great, but it should NEVER be one sided. Kids these days are quite spoiled. They are raised to believe that they are entitled to many things that WE had to work for and earn! I believe there should ALWAYS be some give-and-take; do something nice and get rewarded!! I wanted to teach our middle and high school students that hard work in school could open a path to great rewards. Since Remy had started middle school, I felt this was the perfect time to provide an incentive to get good grades with my HSK Scholars program.

At the end of each quarter of the school year, I would call upon my grade 7 to 12 students to turn in their report cards so that I could check on their progress in school. As a high school teacher for many years, I knew the importance of good grades and character for students to reach their full potential and be able to explore all opportunities. I knew the importance of COLLEGE.

Students who earned a grade-point-average (GPA) of 3.5 or better were honored and featured on our website each quarter. Those who earned this honor for the semester and year were also rewarded with a special treat! Outings and excursions were on the menu, and I tried to pick places that they had NOT experienced before!! Aside from the usual bowling, movies, and pizza parties, we also took them ice skating, on boat cruises, submarine rides, Castle Park, and top Waikiki attractions such as John Hirokawa's magic show and Legends in Concert!!!





Reward time for our HSK Scholars!!!

Remy NEVER let me down, earning HSK Scholar honors each time! And in the blink of an eye, she was off to college and Rylan was in middle school, picking up where his sister had left off!! How amazingly proud I was of them both for their efforts in becoming role models for the rest of our students!!!

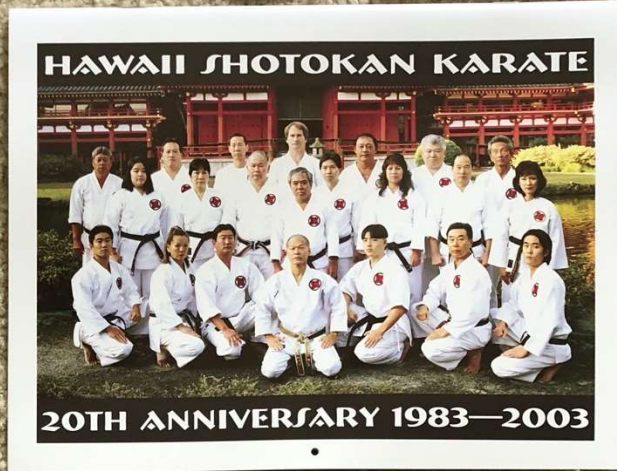
Another goal of mine was to teach our students responsibility. Concerned about how our younger students were presenting themselves in school, I started a regular school reports program, asking their teacher(s) how they were performing in the classroom. I told our students that I did NOT expect them to be a “genius,” but I DID expect them to be “normal” and exhibit the kind of behavior and character needed to function successfully in our society.

To this end, we did NOT ask their teacher(s) about grades, but about three areas that I felt were extremely important to live in and contribute to our community. These areas were 1) Behavior, 2) Respect, and 3) Self-Discipline. Teachers rated them from “Excellent” to “Poor,” and students were expected to return a “Satisfactory” report. These reports were conducted at the beginning of each quarter of the school year, and those who received all “E” ratings were given the title of “HSK SUPERSTARS.”

Those who evaluated less than satisfactory were counseled and checked on again in two weeks to see if there was any improvement. If there WAS, no further effort was made at counseling. If, however, the evaluation did NOT improve, push-ups, sit-ups, and duck walks were on the menu for them before each training session to HELP them “remember!!”

Since I am a strong believer that good behavior should be rewarded, I also started an incentive program so students would strive to do well in school. I ordered various items with the HSK logo on them and began to present the students receiving ALL excellent “E” ratings with these prizes. The more “in-a-row” E ratings a student received, the better the item they received. For example, if a student was able to earn 5 “E” ratings in a row from their teacher(s), they would be presented with an HSK sticker; 10 in a row, an HSK ruler; 15 in a row, an HSK t-shirt; and 20 in a row, an HSK gear bag! Believe it

or not, one student received “E” ratings 21 times in a row! For that she was treated to a pizza party with 4 guests!!!



Rewards for our HSK Superstars!!!

COVID shut down the schools and dojos for more than 2 years, and with it HSK's ability to monitor our students' progress. Although we continued training on Zoom, our school report program was put on hold. We will be restarting this program in September of 2022!

At HSK, we push our students to "deliver," and WE do the SAME!!!