

Hi. My name is Isaac Elliot. I live in Renton, WA. I am 10. I wanted to come to Tae Kwon Do to fight bad guys and use swords. I was 5 when I started Tae Kwon Do, and was put in Little Kickers and Little Ninjas. My parents kept me in for a longer time than others, so my dad could catch up. This taught me patience. When I finally entered Yellow Belt, I learned kicks I hadn't known, such as the hook kick and back kick. I also had to break a board. At first, I didn't want to at ALL! Then, I kicked my foot right through the board. This taught me courage.

To go for and strive for a Black Belt is hard work. It takes perseverance, dedication, integrity, and leg lifts. All the exercises take strength, and taught me to keep pushing, even when I feel like I can't breathe. Children's Home Rules taught me to respect and greet my parents, courtesy, honesty, and indomitable spirit.

The reason I came to Tae Kwon Do was to be able to kick, punch, and use super-cool swords. Now I know that it's more than that. Something that has made me proud is my progress in the turn snap kick. When I first learned it, I struggled and kept struggling. Just in November, I finally got the hang of it. It's not perfect, but now I know that practice improves and will make perfect. My Mamaw is a big part of my life. She paid for me to start Tae Kwon Do, and I'm glad she did. Tae Kwon Do has mainly taught me self control – to not get angry – but to stay calm and take control of myself.

The road to Black Belt is one of the best journeys I've ever had, from kicks to blocks, blocks to punches, and belt test to belt test. I have learned to persevere, and not stop until I reach my goal: Black Belt. I'm sure this is just about everybody's goal in Tae Kwon Do. But belts below me think about another goal to go with the Black Belt one. Perhaps to gain self-control, integrity, perseverance, honesty, courtesy, indomitable spirit, and to become a better person. I have learned that all these things can be accomplished through Tae Kwon Do.

A big thank you to Mom and Dad, Mamaw, Grandpa and Grandma, and to all my aunts, uncles, and cousins. Master Lee, I thank you for lots of things. Sabunim Robert, Instructor Micah, Instructor Geoffrey, and all the other staff and members who helped me achieve Black Belt. Thank you.