

## My Black Belt Journey

By O'Rian Kelly

Hi, my name is O'Rian Kelly. I am 11 years old and I live in Orting, Washington with my mom, my dad, my younger sister and my 3 dogs. I attend North Tapps Middle School and am in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

I believe in being honest, I am very funny, and I am very caring. I also play the piano, and I play percussion in my school band.

I started Taekwondo when I was 4 ½ years old. I went to Sumner Taekwondo Academy located in downtown Sumner, Washington. One summer when Sumner taekwondo started to split up, we spent time working out at Lee's Martial Arts and found that it was the highest quality taekwondo school in the area. I then came to Lee's Martial Arts to stay in February of 2010, in pursuit of my black belt. I was a member of RTA from February 2010-August 2011, during which time I competed in the AAU Nationals tournament . I was also able to compete in 2009.

Lee's Martial Arts is far better than my old taekwondo school in Sumner. I have made new friends here, and they always make taekwondo much more fun and entertaining to do. I have also learned many more skills in poomse and sparring. Over the years, I have built more confidence in myself, have more trust in myself, and I have learned how to be myself around others. My parents say that I've also learned much poise from taekwondo.

Taekwondo has changed my life by helping me concentrate, do better in school and get better grades with the subjects I struggle with the most. I believe in always being truthful and keeping myself in good health.

I would like to thank my mom and dad, sister, and my grandparents for supporting me. I would also like to thank my friends that have supported me, and my mentor, Instructor Robert, Master Lee, Master Geoffrey, my RTA family, and Lee's Martial Arts for helping me along the way and making me feel welcome here.