

Mr. Stuart Cunningham ~References~



"Thank you so much for the time, energy, and effort you have put into Jake's training so far! We really appreciate everything you've taught. It's a joy to bring Jake to class knowing how much he is enjoying it. At the same time, we're grateful for the challenge it is to him as well!

"Keep up the good work!"

~Dan & Kim TeSelle, Bozeman, MT

"As an elementary school teacher, I can recognize a great teacher. Mr. Cunningham has that innate ability to combine strict discipline with total love. The children know that he has a line that cannot be crossed, and they know that he loves them. He is so honest with the children that his praise means that much more. His gentle humor and patience make him a favorite at our ATA taekwondo school.

"With his faith and encouragement, he has helped my daughter gain self-confidence. He has taken her through all of the steps from a six-year-old white belt to testing this fall for her black belt. Over the years that he has been with our school, I have watched him grow from an assistant to a commanding and capable leader."

~Elizabeth Dubin

"Dear new students of Mr. Cunningham's ATA school,

"You are just about the luckiest kids alive because Mr. Cunningham is just the best person to teach you taekwondo. You wouldn't think learning forms, which can be up to 81 moves, would be fun but Mr. Cunningham makes you love it every step of the way. As long as you do the best that you can in sparring and everything else in taekwondo, that is good enough for him, because he knows you can't be pushed farther than your best. This is supposed to be fun. You will find it is not like any other place you go to because, at least for me, this is the only place that you can yell as loud as you want!

"He does not only teach you, he inspires you, for me at least he did. I don't think any other teacher will be able to inspire you as much as he will. I know because he has taught me for four years. He is going to do great things for all of you, his future students. I'm going to miss him so much."

~Emma Rouda (age 10)

(Note: Emma is Elizabeth Dubin's daughter. She was awarded her black belt on Sept. 5, 2003)

"Nicholas has been in the Tiny Tigers class ... since January, 2003. Although he wanted to learn Taekwondo the first classes were difficult; my son was extremely shy, and is also small for his age. Approximately three weeks after class started and with the gentle persuasion and enthusiasm of Mr. Cunningham, Nicholas came out of his shell.

"I cannot begin to describe the difference this class has made in my son's life. Where there was once a boy who was so standoff-ish he was seemingly invisible now is a very outgoing, confident boy who really enjoys learning and participating. The change was also noticed in his pre-school.

"...We think [Mr. Cunningham] is a wonderful teacher and role model and his future students are very lucky to have him."

~Lisa A. Lucchesi

Mr. Stuart Cunningham
~References (cont.)~

"Mr. Cunningham of the American Taekwondo Association (ATA)... has done an outstanding job as my son's taekwondo teacher. Mr. Cunningham has been observed by me in almost every class for the last year. Mr. Cunningham has a gift for teaching, especially kids. I say this as the parent of my seven-year-old son Nicholas, who is currently a camo belt... I have observed Mr. Cunningham instruct a variety of students [to whom] he is always able to impart the principals, techniques, and values of martial arts.

"Mr. Cunningham always has a positive attitude and instills confidence in those he teaches. He is able to communicate in a way that brings out the best in students. I say this not only as a parent, but as a martial arts instructor (4th degree black belt), having practiced and taught Kung Fu, Tai Chi, and self defense for more than 25 years.

"Mr. Cunningham gets the highest recommendation from me as an excellent instructor."

~Mark Messner

"My name is Patrick Fasano. I hail from a long line of Italian chefs, hence I have always had a weight problem. Even though the activity of youth kept me somewhat thin, the inactivity of being married for twenty years resulted in a pudgy, middle aged slug. At the behest of my doctor, I was told to find a form of exercise that would not only work me out, but that I would also enjoy.

"Over a business related conversation in my optical shop one day, Stuart Cunningham told me that he was a Black Belt and invited me to study with him. I jumped at the chance. From the very first session with Mr. Cunningham, I felt a level of comfort never before known. I was always self conscious around others who were inevitably in better shape and more flexible than myself. The ease and humor of Mr. Cunningham's approach allowed me the opening to a new avenue of physical well being.

"Never before did I have a form of physical activity which I both enjoyed and benefited from, both in body and mind. Even though my doctor has warned me off of the impact part of taekwondo, I still perform a regimen of stretching and motion exercises of Mr. Cunningham's design. May I say that now, at 45 years of age, I am in better shape than I was in my 20's. I have lost 30 pounds and a total of 12 inches from problem areas.

"Thank you, Mr. Cunningham, for helping me to transform and teaching me to take responsibility for my own health and well being. I wish you well and hope your lifetime of students derive even a fraction of what I did. "

~Patrick Fasano