

PARENT HANDBOOK



YOUTH

DEVELOPMENT



Congratulations!

And thank you for your interest in learning more about the Authentic Martial Arts Youth Development Program. Our first school opened in Largo, Florida in 1980 which continues to thrive today. We expanded to two campuses in 2006 when we opened our second school in Seminole. Both campuses are well-established that feature spacious and clean free-standing buildings. They are privately owned and operated by Ric Martin, owner and founder of Authentic Martial Arts.

The Authentic Martial Arts leadership team has worked tirelessly for many years to build and train an incredible organization that employs over 35 highly skilled and dedicated Youth Development Professionals. They relentlessly strive to achieve higher and higher levels of excellence, year after year. By listening carefully to constructive feedback from the involved parents we serve in the Largo, Clearwater, and Seminole communities we have continually improved our ability to make a positive impact with thousands of children, their parents, and Pinellas County Schools.

Our community outreach program touches over 5000 local children every month. We are proud of our many school partnerships, and the dozens of awards that we have received from them as well. We are especially proud to be recognized by professional educators, school principals, assistant principals, community leaders, national and international martial arts organizations, and parents just like you as the Premier Youth Development Organization of Pinellas County.

It is important for all parents new to Authentic Martial Arts to know that we are very different than other activities commonly available to younger children and teenagers. We are “Family Focused” and completely devoted to developing young people into strong leaders. We carefully follow a time-tested and proven youth development process. This is not a quick fix program. Our process requires time, patience, and commitment. We align ourselves very closely with parents. Your important family values, that are being taught at home, are being echoed to your children while in our care. We have improved many family dynamics with this simple formula. Our experience has undeniably demonstrated that, “Teamwork Makes the Dream Work”.

In addition to our martial arts curriculum we also provide families with two other closely linked Youth Development programs; the AMA After School Enrichment Program and our Full-Day Summer Camp. By providing year-round care for working parents we are uniquely positioned to make a long-lasting and positive impact on your child, while simultaneously building a healthy and meaningful relationship with you; the parents.

Sincerely,

Kaicho Ric Martin

8th Degree Blackbelt
Okinawan Karate World Champion

The Magic of Martial Arts!

Traditional martial arts instruction is legendary for leadership development. Children are challenged with age and skill appropriate curriculum that helps instill many positive and essential characteristics that build the foundation for a lifetime of leadership ability and personal accomplishments.

- **Self Confidence:** This is attained through martial arts instruction as children discover the power of personal success. Even when children may doubt themselves, their martial arts training teaches them to confront their fear and tackle life challenges as they present themselves without fear or hesitation.

- **Self Defense:** This is a very important psychological benefit that helps children learn to value themselves and maintain a high sense of self-worth. Every time a student practices self-defense they are subconsciously stating that they have value. They are worth defending. Over time, they gain a greater sense of self-worth and never feel the opposite; worthless.

- **Physical Fitness:** Martial arts is very well-rounded from a physical fitness perspective. Students not only improve their physical fitness they learn that a healthy lifestyle is a personal responsibility.

- **The Belt System:** New students begin as white belts. As they make progress they are invited to attend special “Belt Confirmations”. This is when their families, classmates, and instructors celebrate the students’ advancement to their next level of achievement. They are awarded a new belt and may graduate to a new class. Belt Confirmations are very special events that take place after each 8-week training cycle. These are powerful experiences for children and their parents. They provide a unique opportunity for children of all abilities to be recognized and encouraged throughout their journey from whitebelt to blackbelt.

- **Weekly Focus Points:** Weekly Focus Points are specific technical aspects that provide deeper meaning to the martial arts practitioner. A different Focus Point is taught each week throughout the 8-week training cycles.



Character Education is an Important Part of Youth Development

Teachable Moments: Our instructors use examples of proper and improper behavior as an opportunity to provide a positive lesson to achieve a better result.

Core Values: The Core Value of the month appears on a large banner in every martial arts classroom. Instructors explain their meaning and importance during martial arts classes. Staff members include them in their teachable moments.

Blackbelt Character Traits: The Blackbelt Character trait of the month also appears on the same banner with the Core Value of the month. These are the character traits of leaders. Staff members include them in their teachable moments as well.

The Authentic Martial Arts Story

The Authentic Martial Arts story began on August 1, 1980 when his first dojo (karate school) opened on Missouri Avenue in Largo, Florida. That is when Ric Martin, then a third degree Blackbelt with seven years of karate training, began his career as a professional martial arts instructor.

His Sensei was the great Master Toshiyuki Itokazu (Tosh), from Okinawa, Japan. Master Itokazu was the ultimate martial arts mentor. He completely dedicated his life to his students and instructors. Sensei Itokazu and Mr. Martin shared a special relationship in which Master Itokazu vowed to teach him all that he knew of martial arts. By December of 1981 Master Itokazu had prepared Mr. Martin for the greatest competitive challenge of his life; to be the first American to travel to Okinawa, Japan to compete in The All Okinawa Karate Championship Series.

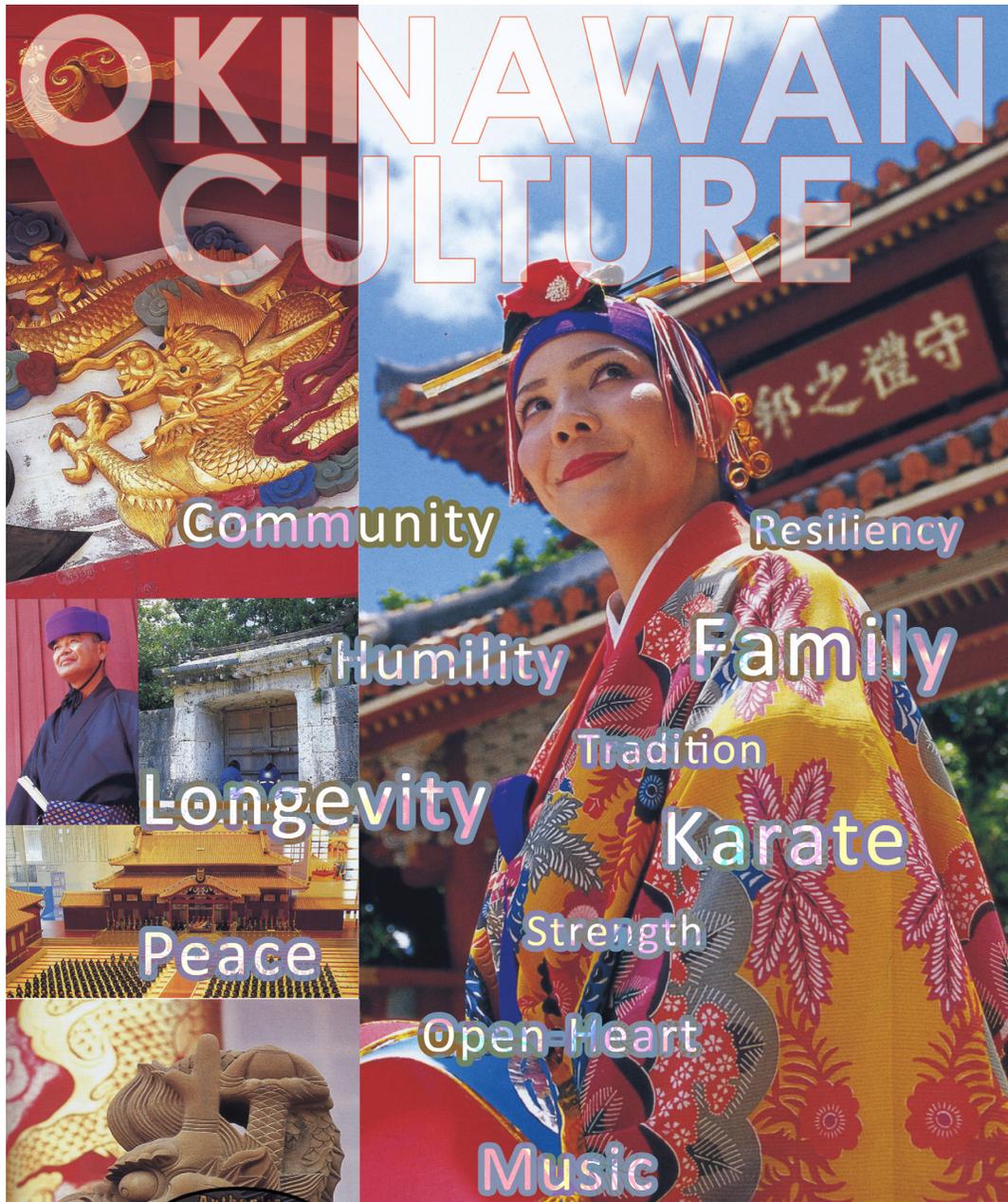




First American to Win The All Okinawa Karate Championship Series

This was the beginning of a thirteen-year quest to become the first American to win the World Championship Title. The journey to the top required more dedication and discipline than he had ever imagined. Eight times he flew to Okinawa at his own expense to compete for the world title. From

1981 to 1990 he fought his way to the finals three times; 1982 (3rd), 1986 (3rd), and 1989 (2nd). His World Championship victory was finally realized on December 11, 1994.



Community

Resiliency

Humility

Family

Tradition

Longevity

Karate

Peace

Strength

Open-Heart

Music





Master Ric Martin - Eighth Degree Blackbelt

Master Ric Martin, currently an Eighth Degree Blackbelt, with over 40 years of martial arts experience continues to follow the teachings of his Sensei, Master Itokazu. Master Martin completely dedicates his life to his family, his martial instructors and students.

Authentic Martial Arts is both a unique and exceptional martial arts organization. Master's from around the world can be found visiting Authentic Martial Arts International academies from time-to-time, where they enthusiastically share their martial arts wisdom and expertise.

Authentic Martial Arts is one of the premier martial arts training organizations in the world.



Standards of Excellence

1. We Promise: An exceptional classroom experience:

-  Every class is motivating and inspirational
-  Every class is focused on discipline, courtesy, and respect
-  Every class is fun and enjoyable
-  Every class cultivates a feeling of friendship and camaraderie
-  Every class is dedicated to developing Blackbelt leaders

2. We Promise: To provide highly qualified Blackbelt Instructors who follow specific age and skill appropriate martial arts curriculum

3. We Promise: You will learn Authentic martial arts

4. We Promise: You will learn effective self-defense skills in a safety first training environment

5. We Promise: To keep our school clean and safe

6. We Promise: To always follow honest and ethical business practices

7. We Promise: We will welcome, and openly show our appreciation, to others you recommend to us

8. We Promise: To continually demonstrate our desire to build a meaningful relationship with you, your family, and close friends

9. We Promise: An immediate and respectful response to any problems, questions, or concerns you may have

10. We Promise Value: As a team, we strive to exceed your expectations, earn your trust, and will remain devoted to helping you achieve your goals



Leadership Teams

Junior Leadership Team

Ages: 7 and under

Junior Blackbelt Leadership Team

Ages: 8 - 15

Blackbelt Leadership Team

Ages: 16 and older



The Authentic Martial Arts Leadership Team members are selected by the Senior Blackbelt Instructors. Leadership Team recommendation is based on attendance, work ethic, and parent involvement.

Leadership Team members have many additional membership privileges including:

- ✓ Monthly Leadership Nights
- ✓ Quarterly Seminars
- ✓ Training in traditional Okinawan weapons
- ✓ Mixed martial Arts
- ✓ Hyper Pro: A combination of gymnastics, acrobatics, tumbling, and martial arts
- ✓ Junior Instructor Development Training (JIT)
- ✓ Martial Arts Competitor Training
- ✓ Martial Arts Tournament Officials Training
- ✓ Bully Prevention Training
- ✓ Private Facebook group (Parents)
- ✓ Leadership Awards
- ✓ Discounts to Special Events

Monthly Leadership Themes

January:	Inspiration
February:	Initiative
March:	Vision
April:	Organization
May:	Goals
June:	Analysis & Understanding
July:	Teamwork
August:	Responsibility
September:	Trust
October:	Work Ethic
November:	Commitment
December:	Courage



Authentic Martial Arts Instructor Team

Master Scott Reed	6th Degree Blackbelt	
Master Carlos Orellano	5th Degree Blackbelt	(Martial Arts Coordinator)
Sensei John Melucci	4th Degree Blackbelt	
Sensei Dave Corrigan	3rd Degree Blackbelt	(Martial Arts Coordinator)
Sensei Les Bartholf	3rd Degree Blackbelt	
Sensei Terry Tokarz	2nd Degree Blackbelt	
Sensei Sean Skinner	2nd Degree Blackbelt	
Sensei Renee Martin	2nd Degree Blackbelt	
Sensei Taylor Denniston	2nd Degree Blackbelt	
Sensei Sydney Whaley	1st Degree Blackbelt	(Martial Arts Coordinator)
Sensei Josh Marshall	1st Degree Blackbelt	
Sensei Richard Whiteside	1st Degree Blackbelt	
Sensei Alex Wagner	1st Degree Blackbelt	

Junior Instructors in Training

Christina Kopita	3rd Degree Junior Blackbelt
Shane Corrigan	3rd Degree Junior Blackbelt
Evelyn Gluchowski	1st Degree Junior Blackbelt
Ryan Gingras	1st Degree Junior Blackbelt

Student Oath

1. I am a determined martial arts student
2. I am a brave leader
3. I will do my best
4. I am Motivated
5. I take Responsibility
for my actions
6. I Respect myself and others
7. I believe in Honesty
8. I will defend myself and others who need
my help
9. I will earn my Blackbelt
10. I am a determined martial arts student



Parent Feedback

“You guys listen to feedback and concerns from parents, discuss them with the instructor and the instructor then works to address those issues. I think that is great. Also that you work on the individual needs of each child. Awesome!”

___Aydon B.

“Your team treats every situation differently and fairly. Friendly and firm as needed.”

___Thomas P.

“You are all so nice and personable and no matter how annoying I can be... You still treat us well...Thank You!!!TTYL XOXO Trina Dixie’s Mom.”

___Dixie Lee C.

“Very responsive, dedicated to the children. Help them achieve their best. Sincerely care about the kids and take time with them. All of the staff have always been very helpful and kind to me (parent) as well.”

___William W.

“Very friendly environment, helpful, consistent encouragement for growth (mentally and physically), and multiple class options.”

___Ashley F.

“There is a strong sense of caring involvement from the instructors and staff. You can see a lot of heart goes into the efforts they make, which in our case has produced great outcomes.”

___Alex L.

“The instructors are very helpful to the children that aren’t understanding the moves correctly. They take the time to show them correctly. Very calm and understanding when it comes to the children that aren’t focusing.”

___Emma A.

Beginner Class Schedule

- ✓ **Monday – Thursday: 6:00pm – 6:45pm**
- ✓ **Basic Training is twice per week**
- ✓ **Monday & Wednesday or Tuesday & Thursday**
- ✓ **Make-Up Classes any day**

New Student Checklist

- Thoroughly review the Authentic Martial Arts website
- Schedule a Trial Class and Keep Your Appointment
- Select Your Preferred Membership
- “Like” our Authentic Martial Arts Facebook page
- Request to be a Facebook friend with Master Ric Martin
- “Check-In” on Facebook each time you bring your child to class
 - Each Check-In generates a donation for various charities
- Visit the “Members Area” on AuthenticMartialArts.com
 - Bottom of the Home Page
 - Password: AMABlackbelt (Case Sensitive)
- Download The Parent Recognition Form from the Members Area
- Turn in the Parent Recognition Form prior to Belt Confirmations
- Attend Belt Confirmation ceremony (Take Pictures!)

Let's Get Started!

- ✓ **Affordable Tuition Plans**
- ✓ **Month-by-Month Memberships (No Contracts!)**
- ✓ **Amazing Family Plans Available!**

Samurai Membership: \$29.99 / week

{No Down Payment}

OR

Ninja Membership: \$24.99 / week

{\$195 One-Time Down Payment}

No Risk Introductory Offer!

- ✓ **No Enrollment Fee! \$99 Savings!**
- ✓ **First Week Tuition: 50% Discount!**
- ✓ **PLUS: 30 Day Unconditional Money Back Guarantee!**

Schedule Your Visit Now!

Authentic Martial Arts – Largo: 727-585-8988 (Ask for Carmen)

780 N Missouri Ave | Largo, FL 33770

Authentic Martial Arts – Seminole: 727-593-5000 (Ask for Torin)

7633 131st St | Seminole, FL 33776

Or Simply use the self-scheduling feature on our website

Self-Schedule: AuthenticMartialArts.com/kids-martial-arts-classes