

Building Character Through Martial Arts

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What makes a martial artist truly great? Is it the talent, the degree of proficiency? Wrong. It's all about being a better person.

At the heart of martial arts resides this intangible virtue. Martial arts may appear to be an outlet for training in ancient fighting arts, but the training is actually two-fold. You physically train, but there's a personal development involved as well. Martial arts instructors will get to serve as a role model. They wish to bring out the talent in each student and train them to their full potential. The role of an instructor is many- they make the martial arts environment conducive for learning, plus they set up new and exciting challenges for the students to be engaged in. Suffice to say, the instructors care about the students they teach martial arts to!

Martial arts classes are designed to reinforce and instill good virtues in kids such as honesty, solid work ethics and positive thinking. These values help the individual choose the best path according to what they desire through their entire lives. Most modern instructors add ethics to part of what they're teaching; what does it really mean to display ethical behavior?

Martial Arts Ethics and Culture

The cultural and traditional makeup of martial arts paves the way for ethical principles, or ethics to come in play. Modern elements such as society and its laws come in as a close second. Most elders will teach you that martial arts is a non-violent practice, and that there are indeed more to it than just kicking and punching. The unseen benefits are many- loyalty to friends, family and their country, tolerance to other people's ideologies and a profound sense of courtesy and respect for others.

In strict terms, ethics can be defined as having a high conscious behavior in the social platform. This spirit embodies what it means to practice martial arts. Through disciplining the body and the mind, the martial artist learns the focus needed to master techniques, and learns to control his or her everyday judgment and actions as well.

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All martial arts can certainly gain something if they include ethics as an important part in their program. Everyone, from beginners to grandmasters can learn and live within the moral guidelines. As mentioned earlier- the greatest martial arts practitioners aren't just strong of muscle and highly skilled; they are upstanding citizens with high social and moral values.

Key Ethical Qualities and Life Skills

Most martial arts today have adopted the ancient ethical codes from the group that came before them. Most of these "Codes" contain invaluable lessons on humility, devotion, compassion, bravery, honesty and dedication to loved ones such as friends, family and the country.

One way of passing the values from mentor to student is for the student to learn it, or observe it from the mentor.

Because students will learn to emulate their instructors and hold them in high regards as their role model. The masters have accumulated more experience due to training far more than the students. The instructors are supposed to have a higher morality and consciousness. They are people who have superior skills and discipline, striving for peace. They are people who have greater wisdom and insights. The students can look forward to imitating all the good values their mentors are showing in front of them. The students will the required protocols on martial arts and the etiquette if they wish to be successful in the endeavor. Kids will learn parenting staples such as respect for others and themselves, being gracious in both victory and defeat, learning to love themselves and not losing control of their emotions. Much like in school, students will learn respect, discipline and manners from reputable leaders.

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As students advance on the levels of martial arts, they accumulate invaluable knowledge, skill and everything they need to succeed later in life. They will also learn how to apply what they've learned and rise again to life's challenges with the drive to succeed. There are lessons in Persistence, in Commitment, Respect and Focus that could not be easily learned within the four corners of a school.

Martial arts is truly unique that it can benefit kids of any age or motivation for joining. The journey is quite unique for each and every student participating in martial arts classes.