

STRIPE TESTING

Stripe testing is a series of individual tests within the class, held once a month, which will break down the requirements of the **Belt Test** step by step. Once all the **Stripe Testing** has been accomplished & the student has earned the required number of stripes, the student will have successfully demonstrated he/she has all material to **Belt Test** (see page 2 for Belt Testing).

To be eligible to **Stripe Test**, the student needs to be able to individually demonstrate the material listed on the **Stripe Test** Requirements & have the minimum number of classes and time in since his/her last **Belt Test** or **Stripe Test**. This process will help the instructor, student and parent to follow the steps to **Belt Testing** and know where the student is at in this process.

Our web site has all the requirements, for both **Stripe Testing** as well as **Belt Testing**. To view, save, or print, you can access it at <http://www.holtdojo.com/Members/ourdojo/commonforms.asp> . As a reminder, the username is dojofriends and the password is 4holtdojo12 to the member's section of our web site.

Stripe Testing will occur one week before the scheduled belt test, each month, within their class. Our goal is for all our students to successfully **Stripe Test** each month. After our initial assessment and stripe placement with the students, the students need to have 8 core curriculum classes (sparring is not counted) between each **Stripe Test**. Essentially, a stripe equals 4 weeks of classes, attended twice per week. If your child missed a class or two, we have many class options and encourage your child to make up the class in the following weeks to keep on their testing schedule. **Stripe Testing** occurs once per month. Note, if your child recently tested, they will likely not have the required number of classes on the next month. HOWEVER, they will likely have enough classes to earn two stripes the next month.

The stripes they will receive on their belts are black, except the last, which is red. When the student has passed their last **Stripe Test** and earned their red stripe, they are one week away from **Belt Testing**.

This is a list of how many stripes your child needs at each rank to advance to the next kyu rank:

12 th Kyu	2-3 stripes
11 th - 10 th Kyu	2-4 stripes at each Kyu level
9 th – 5 th Kyu	3-5 stripes at each Kyu level
4 th – 2 nd Kyu	4-6 stripes at each Kyu level
1 st Kyu- 6 th Level JBB	6-9 stripes at each Kyu level

At the end of each month, we are going to share with the students where they stand in their journey.

BELT TESTING

Belt Testing is the formal test where the student demonstrates that they are proficient with the required material at their current kyu rank. When they pass the **Belt Testing** they will progress to the next kyu rank that evening.

Belt Testing will generally be held on the last Thursday evening of the month at 6 pm, at the Holt Junior High School's Performance Stage. **Belt Testing** occurs toward the end of each month. If your child is **Belt Testing**, please have him/her at the Holt Junior High School's Performance Stage by 5 pm for preparation, the parents are welcome to stay at this point or come back closer to 6 pm for the test. To see the scheduled date for each month's test, you can view it on our Event Calendar posted at the dojo or on our web site at <http://www.holtdojo.com/calendar/index.html>

Belt Testing will be done in a group format, by rank. It will start with all the 12th Kyu's from all the Beginner Youth classes performing together, then the 11th Kyu's and so on.

For many, performing in front of the group is a much greater challenge than that of simply learning and executing the techniques. And this is good. It builds poise, confidence and focus. Out in the real world, moving outside your comfort zone can be scary. Here, though, among "friends & family", each challenge comes with a "safety net". The student is among friends and family. Mistakes made during **Belt Testing** are all part of the process. The student earned the right to be on stage and be part of this process during their series of individual **Stripe Tests**.

One of the benefits of **Belt Testing** in this manner is the student and families at each rank will be able to share the experience with other classmates of the same rank, as well as see what is in store for the students at the next level and beyond. Additionally, there won't be the need to rush out after the test; we'll all be able to celebrate our children's testing accomplishment together!

At the conclusion of the **Belt Testing**, the students will receive on stage their new belt and coupons from a few local businesses wanting to share in the big achievement and dedication needed by our children to make these accomplishments happen. We'll finish with a large group photo opportunity at the end. The entire test should last approximately 1-½ hours. Within two weeks you will receive a Kyu certificate and Kyu Testing DVD showing the test in its entirety.

If your child is unable to attend the **Belt Testing**, we will have a make up test held at the dojo the following week. It's such a positive experience being on stage with classmates and in front of all the families, please try and make this when possible.

If you have any questions on this process, please feel free to contact me. We have put a great deal of effort into this testing system & we are confident it will help all of us follow the students progress and create an atmosphere of celebration in the end.

To your child's success,

Sensei Mark