

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SHOBUKAN PROGRAM

TIPS FOR PARENTS / FAQs

After more than 15 continuous years at SJBS we, like everyone else, were placed on indefinite pause by the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020.

When we returned last September, the response was unprecedented, with more than 30 new students trying out the program. Hopefully, the information below will help with enrollment and any questions you may have. However, if your questions are not answered below, please do not hesitate to contact me.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, communication from YOU is always a plus. When you receive communication from me that says: Please feel free to ask any question about our program, I am being completely sincere. That said, here are some answers to some of the most common questions, concerns and misunderstandings.

Q: HOW DO WE SIGN OUR CHILD(REN) UP?

A: There are 3 enrollment forms. I will have some with me at all times, the SJBS office will also have some, but they are also downloadable from www.shobukan.net. Importantly, I really do need all 3 forms. I spent a fair amount of time chasing people for missing paperwork last year. I would much rather use that energy teaching. If you are having trouble acquiring all 3 forms, please contact me.

Q: Payment Information?

A: If you signed up last year, you do not have to pay the enrollment fee again, even if your child left the program at any time in the school year. Likewise, I should still have your old enrollment forms.

A: Payment is currently cash or check. If paying by check, the payee is SHOBUKAN EAST or SEJKA. You can leave your payments and forms with the SJBS office or mail it to : PO Box 812, E. Longmeadow, MA 01028. If you have a different last name than the student, please put the student's name on the memo line.

A: Some parents were confused because it said on the flier that invoices would be mailed. This is true, but not until after your initial payment. This includes returning students, so the first time you will receive an invoice in the mail from me will be for your child's second month (October). After the initial payment, dues are due the 1st week of each month.

Q: Complete cost breakdown?

A: One time Enrollment Fee: \$65 per student. Monthly membership dues: \$60 per student. Uniforms: starting at approx. \$20, depending on size. Uniform prices can change without warning. Test fee: \$25 paid at the time of the rank test.

Q: Did the price change? Are there discounts available?

A: Yes, both monthly dues and the enrollment fee increased by \$5. This was necessitated by sudden increases in some of my costs which are being absorbed by everyone. I increased the monthly dues at our main facility by \$10, to \$100. So SJBS is receiving a \$40 discount from that. This is the first increase since 2017.

A: Previously there have been no additional discounts as the main one is so deep (40%). Because of the recent increase, this policy will temporarily change. I will discount the monthly dues to the old amount (\$55) if you are enrolling 3 or more students OR if you pay 3 months or more in advance. There are no discounts on the enrollment or test fees. If there are individual concerns, due to financial hardship, please contact me directly or speak with Mrs. Rose if you are more comfortable doing so.

Q: How many classes are there per month? Does this affect the price?

A: Our program observes the school's schedule, including early dismissals, holidays, snow days and vacations. Historically, the average has been just under 7 classes per month. But there are wild fluctuations, with as few as 3 or as many as 10. The monthly dues are called that because it's like belonging to a gym. How much your child gets out of membership will depend on attendance and how hard he/she trains. The price is based on my annual costs, not month to month.

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Additionally, your child can make up for classes lost for any reason at our main dojo location in Hampden. The address is: 16 E. Longmeadow Rd., Hampden, MA 01036. It's in the Hampden Mini Mall where La Cucina, Dunkin Donuts and Reid's Corner are located. Less than 20 min from SJBS. Kids classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5pm and Saturday mornings at 10:45am. You are always welcome and there is no additional cost.

Q: Can my child try a few trial classes?

A: Absolutely. Last year we accepted several students who were not in the right mind-set to receive serious training. There were behavioral concerns I was not told about, and this impacted the quality of the classes early on. I had never had to spend that much class time on correcting behavior before. To avoid having similar issues this year, I will not cash or deposit new student funds for children under 8 years old for the 1st 3 classes. I will contact the parents to inform them of whether I am able to fully accept the student at that time. I do still need complete enrollment forms for these students.

I would also invite parents of younger students to be present for the first few classes. This may help them to understand how they are expected to control their behavior and be respectful to fellow students and their instructor.

Q: Best way to communicate?

A: Please make sure that the best cell phone number and email address are clearly printed on the enrollment form. When communicating with the entire parent group, I WILL use this email address, so please list an address you check regularly.

For individual contact I will respond to whatever you send me. I am happy to accept text messages. If you are texting me for the 1st time please identify yourself. We are also on Facebook, so you can use Messenger if you prefer. If possible, please "like" our Facebook page.

WELCOME TO SHOBUKAN AND I HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON!

Regards,

Allen F. Majane, Shihan

SHOBUKAN EAST JUJUTSU & KARATE ACADEMIES
P.O. BOX 812
E. LONGMEADOW, MA 01028
shobusan1@yahoo.com
(413)426-5444
www.facebook.com/westernmassshobukan
www.shobukan.net