

November 15th, 2011

Hi Folks,

Mr. Abbott here with an announcement to make to all students and parents. Are you sitting down? Good. It is with much excitement that I announce to you all that effective December 1<sup>st</sup> of 2011 I am promoting Mr. Alex Griffin to the position of Chief Instructor of the Blacksburg Taekwondo America school. He has worked a very long time {over 8 years} for this opportunity and I feel very strongly that he deserves this position. Those of you who know him also know how dedicated to teaching he is and how hard he works to make sure he is giving every student everything he can. I want everyone to be excited for him and support him as we move forward.

No... I am not going anywhere. I will still be there to teach and continue to mentor Alex and all the other students that we train. Alex will simply be the boss, chief, head honcho, owner, etc.

Did I say "Simply"?

Anyway, Mr. Griffin has been my student since he was 12 years old and has been with me for 8 years learning how to run a TKD program. He's an outstanding instructor and we know this is going to be a terrific group for him to be in charge of. To be honest, he has been in charge/responsible for the last year anyway. I feel its time he started to get the proper credit for his hard work. Don't you?

I will still be there teaching. That won't change. I will still be here in Blacksburg. I just won't be in charge or responsible for the day to day operations. I am a way better teacher than an organizer anyway and we all know that for a fact. This change will allow for Alex to receive the credit for what he is already doing and for me to have the flexibility and freedom to help those I care about. This does include all of you. You are my TKD Family and I feel that my attitude and work load have made me a bit less of a teacher and friend and into more of an administrator trying to handle too much. I want to be better than that. It starts here and now.

Alex is an excellent instructor and will be great in his new position as Chief Instructor and owner. When I told the other school owners in Virginia about my decision to promote him to this position the only response from ALL of them was, "Awesome". Then Mrs. Lindamood and Mrs. Scott walked up to him at Winter Camp and hugged him out of the blue while he was working out. {He didn't know I was telling them.} These are people who have been doing this as long as I have and they see the same thing I see.

Treat this as a celebration and rank promotion. It is how a martial arts school stays alive and thrives; the master chooses his successor from within the ranks and looks for more than just a person who is a brilliant martial artist. He or she looks for the attitude and humility of a teacher and mentor. He looks for somebody who will keep the students and the school going in the same manner as he or she was taught. In the case of Mr. Griffin I think we got everything the school will need for its future. Yes he is young. So what? Older people have a habit of being set in their ways and unwilling to change. Be thrilled it's Alex. Those of you who know him and know his dedication need to lead the charge to congratulate him and support him.

See you guys in class. I will be teaching Tuesdays and Fridays in Blacksburg.

Always Your Instructor,  
Mr. Sean Abbott