

Kyu

Every school has a different means of showing the ranks of students. This branch of Pangai-Neon uses a Kyu (pronounced “Q”) system. All students wear a white belt until they are ready to test for their black belt. If the student decides, they can use black stripes to mark each Kyu, but this not required. The reason this is done is to discourage the external show of ego and to deemphasize the drive for the next belt. This allows the student to focuses on their studies.

Each Kyu relates to a different Kata:

- 1st Kyu = San Chin
- 2nd Kyu = SeiSan
- 3rd Kyu = DaniSeiSan
- 4th Kyu = KanShabu
- 5th Kyu = Nunchucku
- 6th Kyu = SeiChin
- 7th Kyu = SeiRyu
- 8th Kyu = KanChing
- 9th Kyu = Bo Staff
- 10th Kyu = SanSeiRyu

When a student is deemed ready, they go through a personalized test for the next Kyu. Most students don't know that the test is being conducted, so as to see them function without undue stress, and to witness the student training and practicing as they would any normal class. The test includes their progress and understanding of the Katas they are working on and the history. This can be in the form of oral questions and answers about the art or in a written report.

After ample time has been spent at 10th Kyu, including a minimum of 6 months actively teaching, then the Sensei will administer a test to see if the student is ready to be awarded a certificate of proficiency, and have bestowed upon them the rank of Sho-Dan (First degree) and the title of Sensei (or whatever title is felt to be applicable: Sefu, teacher, instructor, etc).

The rank of Sho-Dan carries with it the responsibility of continual teaching and studying. As the Sensei continues to teach, they are adding to their knowledge of the art, and in time will be asked to display what they have learned to their Sensei.