



OUR NEWS

BLACK BELT TESTING RESULTS

September 12, 2026 - The rank of black belt is recognized internationally as one of the most prestigious accomplishments an individual can attain. While not every style of martial arts uses a belt ranking system, and not every style uses the same ranks, most people recognize two: white belt and black belt. In most styles, including American Eagle Style, white belt signifies a beginner. Explaining the significance of a black belt is more complicated because the requirements for the rank of black belt can vary widely from style-to-style.

In the American Martial Arts Institute there are ten levels of black belt, and it takes an average of five and one-half to seven years before an individual may test for the first level of black belt, also called first degree (first dan). The test for first degree is rigorous, challenging the individual to demonstrate a wealth of knowledge and skills. American Eagle Style is a traditional martial arts style founded by Grandmaster Clifford C. Crandall, Jr. A black belt testing in the American Martial Arts Institute is more than a demonstration of knowledge, skills, and attitude; it is an opportunity for that individual to learn and grow. While black belt testings are closed to the public, they are not secretive, and students who test for black belt freely share their experience with friends and family.

In the American Martial Arts Institute, **first-degree blacks may test for either junior rank or adult rank.**

- Students who are under the age of sixteen tests for junior rank black belt.
- Students who are between the ages of sixteen and eighteen may test for either adult rank or junior rank status based upon their maturity, physical development, and attitude.
- Eighteen-year-olds test for adult status, only.
- After the rank of first degree, students may only test for adult status, and a first-degree junior rank may test for adult status when they are over the age of sixteen and they meet the requirements for the adult rank.

About the Belts: Junior rank black belts wear a black belt with a white strip through the length of the center of the belt. Adult rank black belts wear a solid black belt. And adult rank black belts who fall between the ages of sixteen and eighteen wear a solid black belt with white tips to denote their age.

About the Testings: Candidates demonstrated an enormous range of skills and knowledge. **Areas tested included:** punches, kicks, basic forms, empty-hand self-defense, self-defense against knives and guns, takedowns, sparring (including multiple opponents), ippon kumites, defensive hanza techniques, come-along techniques, tumbling floor exercises, extension tool katas (up to three different katas for fifth degrees), rifle techniques, and most prominently, the execution of up to 14 traditional empty-hand katas for first-degrees (and 36 for fifth-degrees).

The individuals who test for third degree or higher have demonstrated that they can physically learn moves and understand the concepts of what the school, style and philosophy is by the fact that they earned their first degree. The difficulty as the individual continues the road of being a black belt student of the arts is in the ability to put into practice as a part of their character and philosophy that which they have learned. As they approach the demanding levels of second, third, fourth degree, their ability to stimulate growth in their school and their general promotion of their art which in turn will allow others to practice and enjoy the physical and mental rewards of the path which they have walked. The minimum time requirement between black belt ranks varies, but can be 2 to 5 years depending on the rank.

With all of this in mind, we are pleased to announce that on **September 12th** one individual tested for junior rank black belt, and five individuals tested for third degree black belt. The testing lasted over four hours, and the judging panel was made up of eight master instructors including seventh-, eighth-, and ninth- degree black belts. The testing was led by Grandmaster Crandall.

**Having successfully completed these testings,
the following individuals were promoted by Grandmaster Crandall:**



**First Degree Black Belt (Junior Rank) Awarded to:
Joél Cabral**



**Third Degree Black Belt (Adult Rank) Awarded to:
Shana King and Vincent Siegfried**



Third Degree Black Belt Awarded to:
Instructors: Victor Chambers, Adam Ellis, and Jason Nellis

These individuals received their belts on the night of their testing, but they will receive their certificates of rank at a formal recognition on September 26th at the Ceremonial Black Belt Luncheon.

Congratulations to these students and their instructors.

ABOUT OUR ARCHIVES

The American Martial Arts Institute maintains a library at its main office with records of rank promotions, events, publications, media coverage, photographs, and videos. These are in the form of photo albums, copies of our publications, preserved news articles, and digital files such as videos and photographs from events in our history. In 1998, the American Martial Arts Institute launched its first website. Since then, the website has undergone many updates to keep up with changing technology. Many of our school's events and history are recorded on this website; however, not all testing results are maintained online (although testing records are maintained at our school). Events prior to 1998, are kept at our school library. This webpage documents some of our school's history.

For more information visit AMAI-EagleStyle.com.

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