**Gracie Jiu-Jitsu of Ripon July News**

**School Closure**

The Academy will be closed in observance of Independence Day Saturday the 3rd and Monday the 5th. Classes can be made up any time during the month of July. I hope you all enjoy the long weekend.

**Stripes and Red Stamp Clarification**

**Red Stamps:** As many of you know, the coaching staff may give out a Red Date Stamp for behavioral issues with students. This can be from disrespecting other students, not listening to the coaches, or being generally disruptive in class. Being consistently late for class may also warrant a red stamp. These are always earned and used as a last resort. Personally, I am not big on things like “time out” that some kids will take advantage of. A red stamp will set the student back 2 classes for each stamp.

**Participation Stripes:** We don’t have those.

**Stripes:** Each student’s attendance card is highlighted with the **minimum** number of classes needed to obtain their next stripe. Attendance is not the only qualification to getting a stripe. In this Academy stripes are earned and not given just for showing up. I award stripes based on skill level as well as respect for other students, instructors and demonstrating self-discipline. If the student is lacking in any of these areas, I do not care how many classes they have attended. The minimum attendance requirement is the least important aspect of my grading. You can be assured if your child receives a stripe on their belt, they have earned it.

If you have any questions about grading, I will be happy to discuss your students progress and what my expectations are. I feel the best way to obtain the above goals is for the parent to stress to the student that no one is entitled to a stripe. If they want to progress in jiu-jitsu, they need to work hard, pay attention and be respectful to their coaches and peers. I take pride in our Academy and students, and I will not award what is not deserved.

**Charles Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Tournament 2021**

The annual tournament is back! This year’s tournament is scheduled for Saturday October 16 at Lathrop High School. This is a great opportunity for everyone to test their jiu-jitsu in a more competitive environment. This is a very fun, family oriented and well-run event. I encourage all students to enter. For those who registered for last year’s cancelled tournament, your registration has been rolled over to this year automatically. Registration is only available online at [www.charlesgracie.com/tournaments](http://www.charlesgracie.com/tournaments).

Have a Great 4th of July.

Rusty Steele