

SANTA MONICA Mirror

Reflecting the Concerns of the Community

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Largest Kids' Martial Arts School to Open Here

Next month, Dawn Barnes will open the largest martial arts school for children in the United States on Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica.

The 4,200 square foot space will have three studios and will accommodate 1,000 children.

Barnes opened her first dojo in Santa Monica in 1995 and Dawn Barnes Karate Kids Inc. currently has 1,200 students in four schools – in Santa Monica, Encino, Calabasas, and Sherman Oaks.

Beginning with karate moves and kicks, Barnes teaches her students, ages four to fourteen, how to develop positive attitudes about themselves and others, as well as how to meditate and experience their own healing powers. Eastern and Western arts

from around the world, including Japanese Karate, Chinese Tai Chi, Native American Animal Studies and Hatha (Indian) Yoga are integral to her teaching.

Barnes is Director for Children's Education for NAPMA (National Association of Professional Martial Artists), and has written an instructor's manual, "Tiger Tots Proven Techniques for Teaching Martial Arts to Children Ages 4-6," and is a columnist for LA Family Magazine and Martial Arts Professional Magazine. She also lectures nationally for the Martial Arts Industry Association.

Her book series, "The Black Belt Club," for Scholastic Publishing, will be in stores in January. She is currently in negotiations with a major production company to develop the series

into feature films and multi-media games and merchandise.

Drawing on her training as a ballet dancer and her experience as a professional stunt woman, she moved rapidly through the program. Training for three hours each day, she was soon teaching all of the children's classes at the Academy, and doubled the size of the program.

She earned her black belt from Sensei Emil Farkas, 7th degree black belt Master, in March of 1988 and began teaching at a studio in Brentwood. From 1990-1993 she taught karate in local schools and in March of 1995, Dawn Barnes Karate Kids Inc. opened in Santa Monica.

She is now a 3rd degree black belt in Shotokan Karate with the World Karate Federation.