

Central Catholic Hosts First Ever Merrimack Valley “Teen” Karate Tournament

Central Catholic High School (CCHS) has provided its students with the best in academics, athletics, the arts, and extracurricular activities over the years. In keeping with the tradition of new and innovative concepts, Central Catholic’s Karate Club hosted the first “teen” karate tournament of its kind in the state. The CCHS Karate Club has been operating under the tutelage of current math teacher/football coach Mr. Jarrod Brown since 2008.

Jarrod Brown has been training in Kyokushin Karate since 1986 and currently holds the rank of “Yondan” or fourth degree black belt. “The thought of offering an all teenage karate tournament has been in my mind since the inception of the CCHS Karate Club. This year, the dream has finally become a reality”, said Sensei Jarrod Brown. “We had students from Methuen High School, Greater Lawrence Vocational (GLV), Essex Agricultural (EA), and of course Central Catholic competing. I hope to have every school in the Merrimack

Valley compete in this tournament as other sports programs compete in various MIAA tournaments. The students who participated in the tournament competed with pride in representing their high schools.”

In the end, several competitors from each of the local high schools prevailed in their respective divisions. Each participant had the opportunity to compete in fighting divisions to test their ability to defend themselves against an attacker, forms divisions to assess the individual’s technique and foundation in their art, and in the weapons divisions to apply the use of traditional Japanese weapons into their self defense repertoire. The following contenders placed in the top 3 of their division in fighting, forms, and/or weapons:

Women’s Beginner Forms Division: Natalie Macdonald – CCHS – 1st, Zoraida Baez – GLV – 2nd, Elaine Aquino – GLV – 3rd

Fighting Division: Cherie Lemay – CCHS – 1st, Bianca Thompson – GLV –

2nd, Zoraida Baez – GLV – 3rd

Women’s Intermediate Group A Forms Division: Nicole Kebler – CCHS – 1st, Bianca Thompson – GLV – 2nd, Leidy Hernandez – GLV – 3rd

Women’s Intermediate Group B Forms Division: Emily Condon – Methuen – 1st, Lauren Krugh – CCHS – 2nd, Amy Whitney Perry – CCHS – 3rd

Fighting Division: Natalie Macdonald – CCHS – 1st, Elaine Aquino – GLV – 2nd, Leidy Hernandez – GLV – 3rd

Women’s Advanced Forms Division: Brittany Goggin – EA – 1st, Amanda Meli – CCHS – 2nd, Kym Pelletier – Methuen – 3rd

Fighting Division: Amanda Meli – CCHS – 1st, Lauren Krugh – CCHS – 2nd, Brittany Goggin – EA – 3rd

Men’s Intermediate: Forms Division: Neal Drapeau – CCHS – 1st, Andy Lin – CCHS – 2nd, Brendan Stolarz – CCHS – 3rd

Fighting Division: David Mosto – CCHS – 1st, Alex Silvestry – GLV – 2nd, Eddie Santana – GVL – 3rd



CCHS student Lauren Krugh during her 2nd place finish in forms.

Weapons Division: Greg Walsh – CCHS – 1st, Brendan Stolarz – CCHS – 2nd

Men’s Advanced Forms Division: Andrew Capeless – Methuen – 1st, Dylan McGuinness – CCHS – 2nd

Fighting Division: Andrew Capeless – Methuen – 1st, Travis Abdullah – Methuen – 2nd, Jessie Alfonso - CCHS - 3rd