

# THE DRAGONFIRE



**Portsmouth, May 2026**

## **Remember and Honor**

Although not officially declared Memorial Day until 1967, this day of remembrance began after the Civil War to honor both the Union and Confederate dead. The original name was Declaration Day, and was observed on May 30<sup>th</sup> every year. When Congress passed the Uniform Holiday Act in 1968, it designated the last Monday in May as the official day of observation.

Memorial Day should not be confused with Veterans Day, which is observed in November and honors persons who have served in the United States military. Memorial Day specifically honors those who *died* while serving. Finally, Armed Forces Day, also observed in May, is set aside to honor those currently serving in the military.

While it is fine to fill in the long Memorial Day weekend with lots of fun activities, please take a few moments to quietly think about and honor those who gave their life serving their country. It's very likely someone in your family or circle of friends has experienced the loss of a loved one who served.

Peace to you and yours on this Day of Remembrance.

**The Studio will be closed Friday – Monday,  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup>**

Virtual classes will run as usual on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

**HOT News  
from the Studio**

[sdssportsmouth@aol.com](mailto:sdssportsmouth@aol.com)

[www.sdssportsmouth.com](http://www.sdssportsmouth.com)

**603-828-6848**

**601 Islington Street  
Portsmouth, NH  
03801**



# Congratulations to Those Who Advanced in Rank!

(April 11, 2026)



## **Brown 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Logan S.

## **Green**

Jacob H.

## **Blue Stripe**

Neel C.

## **Blue**

Trenton R.

## **Orange**

Ella E.

## **Respecting the Opinions of Others**

Ever have a conversation with someone and find out you have a difference of opinion? Now what? Do you both try to convince the other that their opinion needs to change? How do you do that? Hopefully, with respect.

It's a fact of life that people do not always agree. Indeed, life would be pretty boring if we all thought exactly the same. But just because opinions differ, that doesn't necessarily make one right and one wrong. They're just different. Being able to respect that is key to maintaining civil conversations and good relationships. Sometimes, a clarification of facts can influence an opinion. Other times, people just need to agree to disagree.

That's all well and good, but have you ever had someone simply not let the topic go? Or worse, become so focused on changing your opinion that they go into "attack mode" and resort to name-calling and personal put-downs? How do you gracefully disengage from that conversation, and keep yourself from falling into the same tactics? It's tough. But it helps to remember that once you allow emotions to lead you into a similar pattern of responses, any real conversation that might have happened is essentially over. Sometimes, you just need to walk away and hope that the next time you meet up with that person, the same topic won't arise. If it does, and there begins to be a repeat in the behavior, a tough decision around continuing the friendship or relationship may need to be made.

The ultimate goal is to remember to give and receive opinions with respect for what the other person may believe and feel. If you can do that, you have conquered something that challenges most people. It takes practice, but it can be done.

# Summer Uniforms Begin JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>

Summer uniforms consist of a **Studio T-shirt, Uniform Pants (or black/navy shorts that go to the knee), Belt, and kung fu Shoes.** Please try to avoid stripes or other patterns on the shorts. Plain, dark shorts are best.

Note that regular kung fu shoes, or sneakers, are required. No crocs, or open-toed shoes of any kind (no sandals, Keens, etc.). Also...girls...no leggings. While our summer dress-code is more relaxed, respect for the learning environment is still expected. Keep your workout clothes clean and odor-free. ....and yes, students may continue to wear their full uniforms if they prefer.

Full uniforms are required for belt advancements (but wear a studio t-shirt just in case this standard is relaxed on advancement day). How long does all this last??? October 1<sup>st</sup> is the day we go back to regular full uniforms.

## *May Birthdays...*

**Casey T. 5/8**

**Samuel K. 5/22**

**Ma D. 5/25**



## *Odd Things to Know.....*

### **Dolphins Have Names for Each Other**

Scientists have found that dolphins use a distinctive whistle to identify each other. When a dolphin hears their own "name" called out, they respond. They are the first creatures, besides humans, known to do so.

## CALENDAR UPDATES:

**May 9<sup>th</sup> BLACK BELT / BLACK SASH TEST**  
**Keene Studio**

**PORTSMOUTH STUDIO CLOSED THIS DAY!**

**May 22-25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day weekend**  
**STUDIO CLOSED – Friday – Monday**

**JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> SUMMER UNIFORMS!**

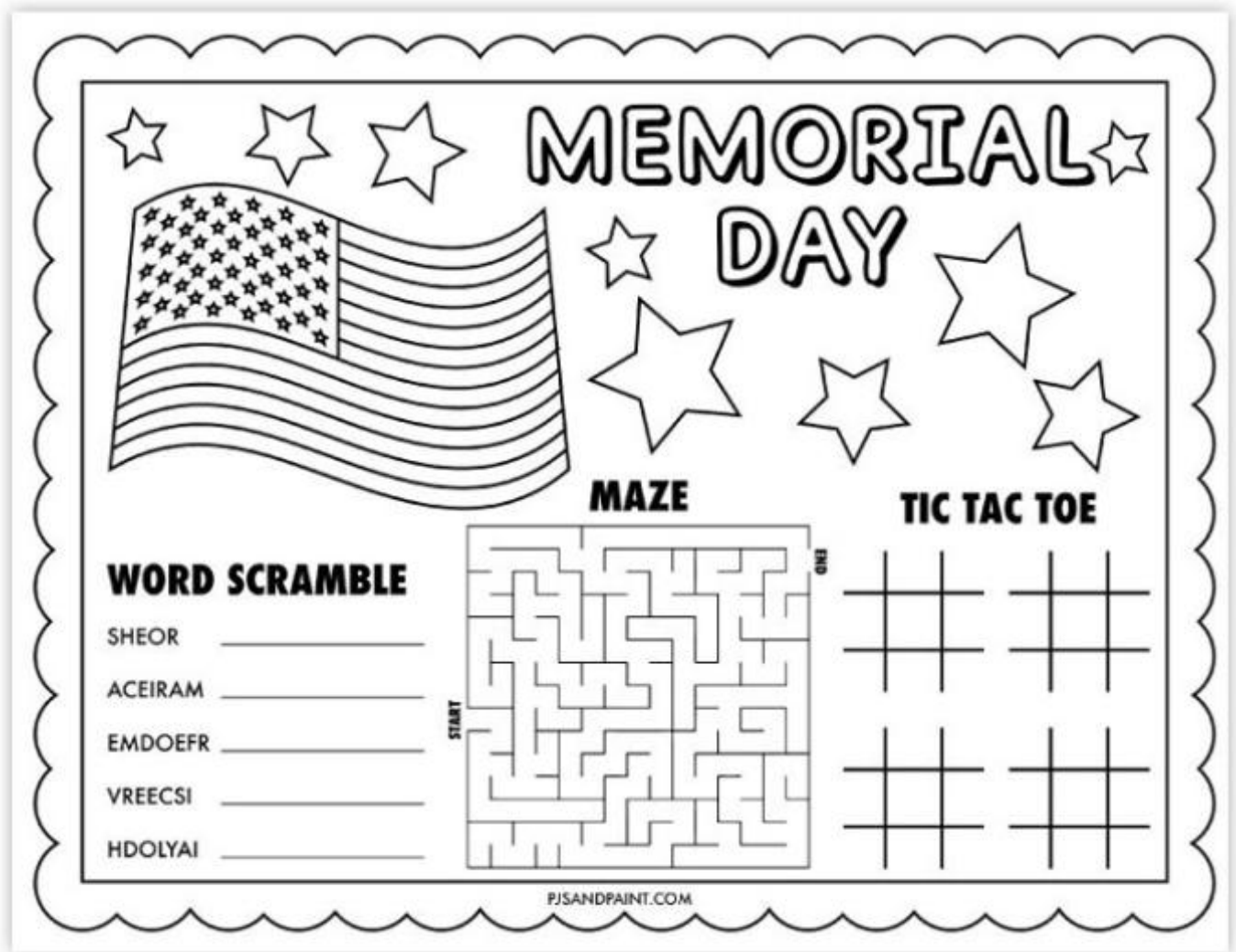
**June 6<sup>th</sup> Double Dagger Form –**  
**Concord Studio 1:00 – 3:00pm**

**June 13<sup>th</sup> Portsmouth Belt Advancement**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> STUDIO CLOSED Independence Day**

**August 1<sup>st</sup> Portsmouth Belt Advancement**  
**NOTE DATE CHANGE!**

**August 8<sup>th</sup> STUDIO CLOSED**



## Summer Schedule

Just a quick note to remind everyone that our summer class schedule does not change, making it easy to plan your days without worrying about when or if class is in session. While we recognize that folks will occasionally miss class due to scheduled vacations, we encourage everyone to maintain regular attendance as much as possible to keep skills strong!



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<https://shaolinstudiospa.secure-decoration.com>