

keep in touch!

For updated information throughout the year, keep your eyes on the following resources:

- Studio Bulletin Board
- School Website & Calendar
- Student & Family Facebook Page (Closed Group)
- Public Facebook Page

Contact Holly or Alyssa by email through our website or at niriaindance@gmail.com, or Holly by phone at 717-825-5461.

To speak to Holly at the studio, please stop in during her “office hours” as posted at the studio. If you would like to speak directly with Holly at an alternate time, please contact her.

www.NiRiDance.com

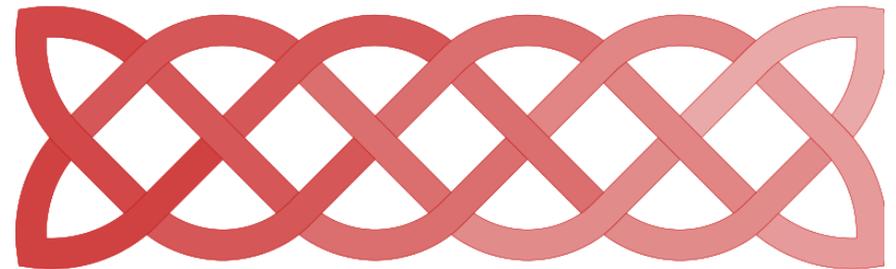


Bring a Friend!

When you introduce a friend to Ni Riain and they enroll in a class, you will receive **half off** of your regular class tuition for that month! New students may check us out by watching or taking a class for free.

Ni Riain School of Irish Dance

HANDBOOK



A Guide for Students and Parents

Table of Contents

Classes	Page
Class Levels	1
Class Advancement	2
Dress Code	3
Classroom Rules	3
When We Arrive	4
While We Wait	4
After Class	4
Lost & Found	4
Cancellations & Schedule Changes	5
Attendance & Make Ups	5
Specialty Weeks	5
Shoes & Costumes	
Irish Dance Shoes	6
School Costumes	6
Solo Costumes	6
Used Costumes	6
School-Wide Events	
Parades	7
Ceili	7
Showcase	7
Extras	
Student Choreography	8
Performing Company	8
Competitions	8
Social Media Policy	8
Code of Conduct	9
Discipline Procedure	9
Keep in Touch	Back Cover

Code of Conduct

To facilitate cohesiveness as a studio and support a positive experience for dancers and parents, it is essential that all dancers and parents adhere the following guidelines:

Students and Parents will...

- Include, encourage, and assist other dancers regardless of age, level of dance, ability and experience.
- Exhibit positivity and goodwill towards other dancers and parents at all times, whether in person or otherwise,
- Not compare or judge other dancers, making sure that all corrections and instruction come solely from teachers.
- Demonstrate pleasant and friendly behavior towards fellow dancers, audiences, volunteers, schools, venues, and the community when representing our school.

Negativity in any form, especially towards others, will not be tolerated. If you are experiencing difficulties on any level, please see Holly as soon as possible. Teachers will uphold these standards, acting in the students' best interests, both individually and collectively.

Discipline Procedure

Non-adherence to our studio's policies as stated in this handbook will result in a verbal reminder, then a verbal warning. If the behavior continues, a meeting will be called to discuss the situation in detail.

If a student exhibits disruptive behavior during class time, the teacher will give a verbal reminder, and then a warning. If disruptions continue, the student will be asked to sit out and watch class for a period of time. If inappropriate behavior continues, a parent meeting will be called.

If a student or parent continues to display behavior that undermines our school's policies and philosophy, NRSID has the right to terminate a dancer's enrollment.

Please help us in creating a positive and productive learning environment, and an enjoyable experience for all.

Thank you!



Student Choreography

Each year we will include a dance in the Showcase to highlight student creativity and choreography. Student choreographers must audition in front of a panel on a specified audition date to be held in February.

Performing Company

PC provides the opportunity for students to develop performance skills and personal confidence in varied, enriching environments. Participation enables students to experience creative choreography throughout the year and to develop the skills necessary to work as part of a team. Membership in PC is by invitation only for students dancing at the Bun Grad level and above.

Competitions

There are several types of Irish dance competitions: Feile (FAY-lah), Feis (FESH), and Championships. When a student is ready, participation in competitions is encouraged but not required. The first dance that a student may compete in is the Bun Grad Reel. Competitions can help motivate a student to practice with specific goals in mind. Technique and skill improvement, confidence, stage presence, and comradery amongst classmates and other schools can be gained as a result of participation.

Social Media Policy

Parents are encouraged to upload and share photos of dancers on our school's student and family [closed group](#) Facebook page. Select photos can then be posted to our public page by a page administrator. When posting photos and performance video clips to personal social media accounts, including the last names of dancers other than your child is strictly forbidden. Please do not post videos of class practice or rehearsals.

It is imperative that social media posts remain positive and supportive towards other dancers, parents, teachers, schools, and venues. Also, please do not post negative comments about school activities such as competitions, conventions, and performances, or about the directors of those events. Finally, students and parents should neither claim nor imply that they are speaking on behalf NRSID, nor share personal information about the teachers, other students or their families.



Thank you for choosing Ni Riain School of Irish Dance!

We are committed to providing high quality, authentic Irish dance instruction in alignment with the teachings and guidance of Cumann Rince Naisiunta (CRN) of Ireland. It is our goal to enrich our students' lives through artistic expression, personal achievements and a sense of belonging. Creating a positive and encouraging atmosphere while students learn the discipline and uniqueness of Irish dance is a cornerstone of our school.

As a condition of enrollment, students and their parents or guardians agree to abide by the policies set forth by Ni Riain School of Irish Dance, its director and staff. NRSID reserves the right to terminate any student's enrollment at any time due to misconduct or inappropriate actions by either the student or parent.

Classes

Classes are designed so that students can move through levels fluidly as dancers master skills throughout the year. Class time includes warm-ups, stretches, skill development, learning choreography and team-building.

Class Levels

Entry level classes teach the foundational basics of Irish dance.

Entry Level Classes:

Pre-School (age 3-5)

New Beginners (age 5-18)

Adult Irish Dance (age 19+)

Dancers then move to the **Bun Grad** level and begin learning traditional choreography along with an introduction to hard shoe technique.

Levels above Bun Grad:

Ullmhuchan (Ullm) - Level 2

Mean Grad (MG) - Level 3

Ard Grad (AG)- Level 4

Craobh Grad (CG)- Level 5

Dancers in Level 2 and above must take at least one soft shoe and one hard shoe class at any given time.



Class Advancement

Teachers will determine a student's class placement based on mastery of Classroom Achievement Goals and their potential to succeed at the next level. These goals are posted in the studio and are available as printed cards for your reference.

The rate at which a student progresses through class levels depends on many factors, including a student's age, dance background, and commitment to dance. Contributing behaviors include classroom focus, consistent class attendance and home practice. Please keep in mind that while encouraging these behaviors is helpful, all dancers will progress in their own time.

CLASS PROGRESSION CHART

Level	Progression →	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
Entry Level	Pre-School or New Beginners*	X								
1	Bun Grad		X							
2	Ullm Soft Shoe			X						
2	Ullm Hard Shoe			X	X					
3	MG Soft Shoe				X	X				
3	MG Hard Shoe					X	X			
4	AG Soft Shoe						X	X		
4	AG Hard Shoe							X	X	
5	CG Soft Shoe								X	X
5	CG Hard Shoe									X

* Students 19+ may enter through the Adult Class.

It is wonderful and affirming for students to move up in class levels when they are ready. The goal is for students to enjoy the process of learning while pursuing their personal best. When this happens, personal achievements such as advancing in class levels and winning medals at competitions, will be part of a rewarding, natural process.

School-Wide Events

All students are invited to participate in several school-wide events throughout the year. These performances include the Halloween and Saint Patrick's Day Parades, our School Céilí, and the Showcase. These are fun opportunities for students and families alike.

Parades

All students age 6 and older who are able to dance change23s in a straight line may dance in the parade. Other dancers, including students who are under age 6, are welcome to ride on our float. Parents and siblings who are age 6 and older may walk along the parade route with us. Those dancing in the parade will learn the parade dance during regular class times and must attend Parade Practice prior to the parade. Younger dancers will be assigned a parade buddy for added safety and comfort.

School Céilí

Each year Ní Ríáin School of Irish Dance hosts a traditional Irish Céilí (pronounced KAY-lee). NRSID Céilís are social dances open to the public. The event includes called dances, refreshments, student performances, Celtic music and fun activities for the whole family.

Showcase

Dancers look forward to showcasing the skills and dances that they have been working on in class. Our end-of-the-year Showcase provides a platform for your dancer to perform with pride for family and friends, and to celebrate a year of growth and accomplishment.

Students will receive details regarding the performance and rehearsals as they become available. Students who cannot attend or do not wish to participate, must inform their teacher prior to March 31st.

Each class will perform a choreographed dance on the Showcase stage. Students begin learning Showcase choreography during a portion of each class in January. It is especially important for students to attend class regularly between January and the Showcase date. This allows each student adequate time to learn the dance at a comfortable pace, and ensures that they will learn their places in the context of a team. 7

Shoes & Costumes

Irish Dance Shoes

New shoes and socks can be purchased at most competitions as well as online. We have tremendous success ordering from Fay's Shoes at fayshoes.com. If you know your size, you may order the same shoes from Keilys.com with the discount code NiRiain for 10% off all products. Please see handout in the Information Center for details.

Used shoes are periodically for sale in the hallway bin. Buying and selling instructions are included on the bin for your reference.

School Costumes

Students who would like to perform and/or attend competitions with our school are required to wear either a school dress, or a beginner skirt with a long-sleeved, buttoned-up white shirt, with Irish dancing shoes and poodle socks. Ordering information/details are available at the studio.

Alternate costumes may be required at minimal cost for performances such as team dances, themed parades, our Showcase or when performing in very hot weather. In most cases, beginners may wear black ballet flats.

Solo Costumes

Students competing at the Mean Grad level and above are allowed to wear a solo costume at competitions. Solo costumes may be worn occasionally at performances when specified by the teacher. If you are interested in a solo costume Holly is available to guide you in your purchase.

Used Costumes

Used Irish dance dresses, skirts, and accessories may be made available for sale at the studio. Each item brought to the studio for sale should be clearly and securely labeled with the seller's name, contact information, and asking price. If you would rather post a photo, please also include a description of each item for sale, including measurements.

Disclaimer: NRSID neither receives profit/service fees from the sale of used items nor assumes any liability for these items, including damage or loss. Although care is given to items left at the studio for resale, individuals must buy and sell used items at their own risk.

Dress Code

To help students receive maximum benefit from class time, and to prevent injury, please adhere to the following guidelines:



1. Have hair pulled securely off of face,
2. Wear lightweight, comfortable clothing that allows for full range of movement,
3. Do NOT wear denim, long pants or short-shorts,
4. Make sure ankle placement is visible (shorts, skorts, capris, or leggings are great),
5. Have dance shoes and socks on, and shoes tied before class begins.

Skirts & dresses are OK if the hemline is above the knee and shorts are worn underneath. Beginner students may wear black ballet flats with socks. Please note that if a student's shoes repeatedly become untied and/or fall off during class, you will be asked to tape shoes with electrical tape prior to the start of each class.

Classroom Rules

Students are expected to adhere to our classroom rules, which are posted as follows:

1. I will follow the dress code.
2. I will not bring food, gum or drinks (except water bottles) into the studio.
3. I will store my belongings off of the dance floor.
4. I will listen quietly when the teacher is speaking.
5. I will cooperate and follow directions.
6. When the music stops, I will stay in my spot.
7. I will make only positive comments towards myself and others.
8. When not needed for dancing, I will keep my hands & feet to myself.
9. When not dancing, I will watch the other dancers quietly.
10. I will do my best at all times and practice as if in front of an audience.

By following these 10 rules, students are able to contribute directly in creating a productive and positive learning environment.

When We Arrive

Please arrive to class 5-10 minutes prior to the start of class so that a student's shoes are on and tied securely before entering the classroom. Young students should use the restroom prior to entering the classroom.

Place street shoes in the hallway baskets. Coats and jackets may be hung on the coat rack just inside the studio door. All other items should be contained in a dance bag and clearly labeled with the student's name.

While We Wait

To minimize distractions, only students who are enrolled in a given class will be allowed in the classroom during that time. Parents and siblings may wait in the building in the waiting room on the lower level. Parents are permitted to leave the building while their child is in class but must return prior to the end of the dancer's last class of the evening. Children in the building must be directly supervised by an adult at all times.

After Class

Please wait in the hallway for your dancer after class. The hallway is available for parents 5 mins. prior to and 5 mins. after the class' end time. This policy is in place to minimize distractions during student lesson time on the upper level.

For the safety of our students, young dancers should not walk out of the building without their parent or guardian. If a parent of a young student is late, the student will wait inside the studio until the parent arrives.

Because our building is used by many children, please use caution when driving in the parking lot. In an effort to minimize traffic within the neighborhood, please use Royal Street when possible.

Lost & Found

Items left in the studio, with the exception of Irish dance shoes, will be placed in the Lost & Found bin located in the hallway. Please check this bin periodically as unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each month. Found dance shoes will be set aside; please label shoes clearly with your dancer's name. Ni Riain School of Irish Dance, its teachers and volunteers are not responsible for lost items, including shoes.

Cancellations & Schedule Changes

Cancellations due to inclement weather will be posted on our website's front page by 12 noon on the day in question. You may also check the cancellation list at www.WGAL.com. Cancelled classes will be rescheduled when possible.

Schedule changes are sometimes unavoidable as the year progresses. If a change in schedule becomes necessary, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board in the studio hallway and our school's online calendar.

Attendance & Make Ups

Consistent class attendance is essential to a student's overall progress. It ensures that dancers develop skills in manageable increments and helps them to retain what has been learned.

If a student must miss a class due to illness or a schedule conflict, she is welcome to attend a class at the same level or lower, preferably within the month. As such, missed classes remain subject to tuition fees.

Specialty Weeks

Throughout the year, specialty weeks are offered to add a bit of extra fun to class time. Watch the bulletin board and online calendar!

School Spirit Weeks - During certain weeks throughout the year students may attend class dressed in various themes. Please ensure that students are able to dance easily and comfortably, with visible ankle placement. Socks and Irish dance shoes must be worn.

Parent Observation Weeks - Parents are invited to observe their students in class on the 4th week of every month during the last 5 minutes of class time. Siblings are welcome to accompany parents during this time if they are not a distraction to the dancers.

Mother's Day Week - Mothers and grandmothers are welcome to participate with their dancer during their regular soft shoe class. This may include stretching, dancing and watching. No experience required!

