



Ní Ríáin School of Irish Dance

New Student Information

Who can take Irish dance lessons?

Everyone! Irish dance is a fun way to exercise, build confidence, and learn a unique style of dance that is both a solidly traditional and an ever evolving form of art. Irish dancing can be enjoyed by people of all ability levels, ages 3 – 103!

Which class should I take?

- **Students aged 3-5** begin with our Pre-School Class. This 45-minute class focuses on the basics of Irish dance rhythm and movement in an engaging and fun-filled context.
- **School-aged children** enter through our New Beginner Class. This 45-minute class teaches students the three foundational steps that all Irish dances are based on.
- **College-aged students** may choose to enroll in the New Beginner Class or Adult Irish.
- **Adults** may enroll directly into the Adult Beginner Irish Class and/or Iyengar Yoga.

When can I start?

Anytime is a great time to start! We offer open enrollment throughout the year, and students can begin any week of the month. The only exception is during school breaks which are listed on our online calendar.

How do I begin?

Just fill out and submit the **online registration form** and come to class, along with your registration fee and first month's tuition.

What if I'm undecided?

All new students are welcome to observe and/or try out a class **free of charge**. Registration forms can be submitted when the student is enrolled and are available online or at the studio.

What is the cost?

Please see our **2014-15 Tuition Rates & Policy**.

Will my dancer have performance opportunities?

There are many opportunities to perform throughout the year depending on a student's level. Our regular **school-wide events** include the Halloween and St. Patrick's Day Parades, a mid-year Annual Ceili, our Spring Showcase, and the Penn-Mar Irish Festival.

What should my dancer wear?

There are two things to consider when dressing for Irish dance:

- 1.) Clothing should be **light-weight and comfortable**, allowing easy movement
- 2.) Clothing should allow a dancer's **ankle placement** to be visible.

With this in mind, students usually wear t-shirts with shorts, skorts/scooters, or leggings. Girls should wear shorts, leotards or tights under skirts. *No jeans, denim shorts or extra-short shorts, please.*

What about shoes?

New dancers are welcome to begin classes in **socks-only, or socks and black ballet flats**. A continuing Irish dancer will want and need Irish dancing shoes. Used shoes are periodically available at the studio. Purchasing information for new shoes is also available.

What can parents do during class?

There is a **parent waiting area** on the floor below the studio which includes comfy seating, free wi-fi, a soda machine and usually coffee and snacks. Parents are also welcome to wait in the hallway outside of the studio or to run errands during class time. There is a small window in the studio door that can be used to view a student's class if desired.

How will I move up to the next class level?

Pre-Schoolers who reach 6 years old will be encouraged to enter the New Beginner Class as a transition into Bun Grad level classes.

New Beginner students, age 6 and above, will enter the *Bun Grad 1* class after mastering the three foundational types of Irish dance steps with music. The amount of time this takes varies per student, and directly relates to a student's age and individual practice time.

What if I have additional questions?

There is more information available online and in the studio. Additionally, please feel free to **contact Holly** directly. She is best reached by email at niraindance@gmail.com or niridance@gmail.com, and can also be reached by phone at 717-825-5461.

