

Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance
1750 Glenview Road
Glenview, IL 60025
847.998.0066
established 1962



welcome New Students and Parents to The Sheila Tully Academy of Irish Dance!

Thank you for your interest in Irish Dancing and the Sheila Tully Academy. I founded my school over 44 years ago and today it has grown to over 300 students throughout the Chicago land area. My goal has always been to make all children feel welcome and provide them with an opportunity to learn the wonderful tradition of Irish Dance in a kind and nurturing atmosphere.

What does your beginner need to dance? Nothing except a comfortable pair of shorts, a t-shirt and a pair of socks! Please have them bring their own water bottle. Dancers are encouraged to purchase a Tully short set and headband to wear to class. Samples will be brought to your class location so you may order your Tully wear to use throughout the session. Please have your dancer's hair pulled back and out of their face during dance class. In time, your dancer will need poodle socks and eventually the Irish soft shoes. All of these items will be available for purchase through our school. Soft shoes must be properly fitted by teachers. Until they are ready, all beginners will dance in their socks.

What will my beginner learn? We start at the beginning! A beginner will learn the important point of the toe, body and foot position, correct dance posture and the seven steps of the traditional Irish jig. It can take anywhere from 6 months to a year to learn these steps. Remember, every child learns at his or her own pace. After mastering the jig and receiving their Jig Certificate, a beginner will begin to learn the Traditional Irish Reel.

Dancing for fun or competition? Tully Academy performs in many "shows" throughout the year. Dancers may participate in shows only after they have earned their jig certificate and have purchased a formal school costume. For those who are interested, there is a competitive side of Irish Dance where dancers may compete in a "feis", which allows them to earn medals and trophies for their dancing. Tully Academy has dancers who participate in both of these aspects of Irish Dance. You will learn more about these opportunities as you become more involved in Irish Dance.

In the dance class: Parents are not allowed to remain in the room while class is in session and are requested to remain outside of the classroom until class is over. I ask your understanding in strictly adhering to this policy.

My hope is that each child will enjoy their Irish dance experience and have a great time while making new friends! I want each class they attend to be a positive experience. If you ever have a concern or question please contact me via email at tullydance@aol.com or phone us at 847.998.0066. Please check our Tully website for updates at www.tullyirishdancers.com and our family message board at www.voy.com/178622/ for timely school news, show announcements and other helpful information.

My excellent staff of teachers and I look forward to a rewarding and successful experience with your children. I sincerely thank you for your interest in my school.

Best Regards,

Sheila Tully Driscoll
T.C.R.G., A.D.C.R.G.