

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 48 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? We REQUIRE that our BEGINNERS (new and continuing) purchase a Tully Logo short set to wear to all of their classes. It is important that the dancer wears comfortable practice clothes and it is important for the teacher to see the dancer's knees. A variety of short sets will be brought to your class location so you may choose your correct sizes. Tully wear will be required throughout the session at each class and is ordered on your Beginner's class registration form (found on our website). Your beginner may wear their own shorts, t-shirt and socks to the first class and then until you receive your Tully short set. In time, your dancer will need poodle socks and eventually the Irish soft shoes. These items will be available for purchase through our school when they are needed. Soft shoes must be properly fitted by teachers. Until they are ready, all beginners will dance in their socks.

What will your beginner learn? We start at the beginning! A beginner will learn the important point of the toe, body and foot positions, correct dance posture and the seven steps of the traditional Irish jig. It can take anywhere from 6 months to a year, and sometimes longer, 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 start to learn the Traditional Irish Reel.

Dancing for fun or competition? Tully Academy performs in many "shows" or performances throughout the year. Dancers may participate in shows only after they have earned their Jig Certificate and have purchased a formal school costume. We offer St. Patrick's Day show classes from December - March for those who wish to learn the performance dances for our shows. Show class information will be sent home after the fall session begins. For those who are interested, there is a competitive side of Irish Dance where dancers may compete in a "feis", a competition 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: Please have your dancer bring their own water bottle if desired. Parents are not allowed to remain in the room while class 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. Please arrive a few minutes early the first day of class so we may take care of registration and attendance.

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.

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