



Mise Eire Irish Dancers

Student & Parent Handbook 2019-2020

www.MiseEireSaratoga.com



Mise Eire Irish Dancers Saratoga



[dympna_miseeiresaratoga](https://www.instagram.com/dympna_miseeiresaratoga)

*Where the rich culture of Ireland comes alive
through our tiny feet...*

Mise Eire Irish Dancers

“Cead Mile Failte”! “A hundred thousand welcomes”!

Welcome to our FOURTH YEAR here in the Spa City!

At Mise Eire, we believe in a healthy, fun approach to Irish dance. During classes, dancers learn dance skills, techniques, and steps, which are woven together with the concepts of self-awareness, positive self-esteem, and the value and importance of teamwork. In an increasingly multicultural world it is essential for our children to develop an understanding of cultural art forms. It is our hope that by teaching them to love Irish dance we are helping to foster a greater appreciation for other cultures and art forms as well.

Our school began and continues in Babylon, New York on Long Island under the direction of Patti Love, TCRG. Our school belongs to the An Coimisuin Rinci Gaelacha (Irish Dance Commission in Dublin) and we are members of the North American Irish Dance Teachers’ Association.

Throughout the year we may have opportunities to perform for our community and for local events. Our families are invited to see us perform during our year-end performance in June.

We ask each dancer and his/her parent(s) to review the content of this handbook in order to make sure there is an understanding of what you can expect and what is expected of you as the year progresses!

After reading the sections, which follow, please sign the last page and return to Dympna at your first class.

Attendance

Good attendance is key to progress! Each week builds on the prior week’s lessons. Class fees will not be adjusted for missed classes; no credits will be given. In the event of class cancellation, attempts will be made to hold makeup sessions at a later date.

Class Schedule

Class times and placement are at the teacher’s discretion and may be changed depending on class enrollment and abilities. See the website for the full listing of classes. Overall, we follow the Saratoga Springs City School District calendar; when Saratoga Schools cancels school or after-school activities, Irish dance classes are cancelled as well.

Class Communication / Website

Please visit our website at **www.MiseEireSaratoga.com**

We welcome any dancer photos... sent by email to Dympna@miseeiresaratoga.com.

- Class updates and reminders will be posted on our Mise Eire Irish Dancers Saratoga Facebook page.
- All news updates about class changes, cancellations due to weather, and holiday schedules will be posted on the website. Furthermore, we will follow the Saratoga City Public School District's lead when it comes to weather (i.e. if school is closed or after-school-activities are cancelled, we will not have dance class).
- Communications will largely be done through email.
- Class time is limited. If at all possible, please direct any non-urgent questions/inquiries to our email: Dympna@MiseEireSaratoga.com; we will respond as soon as reasonably possible.

Proper Dance Attire

Proper class attire includes:

- shorts or leggings, so we may see your feet –NO JEANS or PANTS
- White (poodle/Irish dance) socks – *will be available for sale at beginning of the year*
- Proper dance shoes
- New beginners may use ballet shoes IF ALREADY OWNED, particularly while just starting out
- As we progress: Irish dance soft shoes/ghilles will be required for all dancers
- Hair should be pulled back, out of the dancer's face
- Water bottles are allowed & recommended (no other food or drink)

Proper performance attire:

- Girls: Mise Eire Malley school dress (orders will be placed through the school this winter)
- Boys: Black slacks, White long sleeve shirt and tie
- *****In the Fall, information about costume orders will be distributed***

Class/School Conduct

- Please arrive to class on time, with shoes on, ready to be attentive and to dance!
- Dropping off: Parents are to wait w/their dancer until the class is called into the dance room. Pick up should be prompt. We do not allow dancers to leave the building to “find” parents in the parking lot --- obviously this is a safety measure! Please remain in the waiting area/hallway until class is dismissed and the door is opened.
 - *We are guests at the Waldorf School - please keep dancers and siblings from “exploring” the building or grounds :) Thank you for your help and cooperation in this matter!*
- **Parents are asked to respect our class space, which can be limited. Parents/siblings are not permitted to remain in the classroom during lessons.**
- Disruptive behavior, misconduct, bullying, theft or harassment or any detrimental behavior will NOT be tolerated. Dancers and families should refrain from inappropriate or negative behavior in person or online/social media. Failure to do so will be grounds for immediate dismissal.

Practice Expectations

Practice Practice makes perfect! Whether you are a new Irish dancer or someone who has learned the basics and is now being challenged with more complicated material, practice is essential!

Dancers should be practicing every day and should practice with the proper shoes and music. The quality of the practice time is every bit as important as the quantity! Music is key to practicing! Please see the website “Our Favorite Things” page for music suggestions.

HARD SHOES: Those dancers learning hard shoes **NEED TO PRACTICE IN THEIR HARD SHOES.** It is about foot/ankle control, but also requires the dancer to listen and hear their footwork. This is best done on wood (not tile). You can consider a large square of plywood (which can go over your carpet or regular floors)/ **ALSO** - this year I am encouraging all my dancers to purchase a Practice Pad - portable for use at home and for dance class. This provides a layer of protection for your dancer in terms of safety **AND** it also protects your floors and the floors at the Waldorf School.

Dance Outs and Performances

As our dance school grows in Saratoga, we will continue to have the opportunity to participate in local shows/performances, or “Dance Outs”. These will be optional and more information will be available on our

website as time goes on. We will also have an end of the year performance (details TBD).

Feisanna / Competitions/Performance After at least one year of Irish dance, some students may wish to participate in an Irish dance competition, known as a feis (“fesh”). While we have previously prepared many students for competitions at the local, national, and world levels, not all dancers are interested in pursuing this part of Irish dance... and that’s OK! We encourage all dancers, especially those thinking about feisanna, to attend a local festival and see what it is all about PRIOR to participation. Please understand that any dancer wishing to compete MUST have Dympna’s permission and the entry must be completed and approved by Dympna, as well. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Students may not represent the Mise Eire Irish Dancers by performing in any feis, competition or performance event without discussion with and permission of Dympna.

Tuition

Monthly tuition is due no later than the 1st class of the calendar month; fees received after the 2nd class of each month are subject to a \$15 late fee. Also, any returned checks are subject to a \$35 fee (due to incurred bank charges).

Monthly fees are based on proration of the year’s classes. You will notice that some months there will be 3 classes per month; in others there will be five. Monthly fees have been determined to take this into account so that it is averaged over the entire year.

Due to increased professional dues/costs, there will be an increase in our tuition this year.

Monthly fee: \$50/dancer *for one class per week

For dancers also taking the Hard Shoe class, the total monthly fee will be \$75/month for the 2 classes

Sibling discount: \$20 off your monthly fee

Please, please, please speak to Dympna if there is any issue or hardship with class fees. We can and will make arrangements; I wish for all dancers to have the opportunity to learn :)

An Irish Dance Primer for Beginners

Q: What is a TCRG?

A: A “TCRG” is an Irish dance teacher who has passed the required certifications by the Irish Dance Commission in Dublin, Ireland. This credentialing ensures that the dance form is learned properly and allows for students to participate in Irish dance competitions.

Q: What will my child learn in the first year?

A: Your child will be introduced to the basics of Irish dance including proper posture, foot placement, technique, and stretching exercises. We will cover material in both the Jig and the Reel. By the end of the dancing year, your child should be able to dance the Beginner’s Jig and Beginner’s Reel.

Q: What comes next?

A: Additional dance types including slip jig in the soft shoe, traditional group ceili dances and then hard shoes dances eventually follow.

Q: What are the different types of music and dances?

A: There are four main types of Irish dances: reels, jigs, slip jigs, and hornpipes. Each of these is named for a specific type of traditional Irish dance music. Beginning dancers learn the basic light jig and reel to start. Each step is a sequence of intricate footwork, jumps & hops which is first danced on the right foot and then on the left foot to complete the step. Each school has its own unique steps, built upon the traditional basics passed down over generations. In addition to solo dancing, group dances such as figure dances or ceilis (kay-les) allow dancers to work on the fundamental steps and put them together into choreography danced with other dancers. They are so much fun!!!

Q: What is the significance of the Irish dance costume?

A: Each Irish dance school has its own colors and Celtic designs for the school costume. Mise Eire’s colors are black, Kelly green & white. Our design is a variation and incorporation of the Trinity Knot, a well-known design from the Book of Kells.

Handbook Confirmation Form

We have read the Mise Eire Handbook and understand the policies stated above. We also understand that the main means of communication between teachers, students, and parents will be through our dance school website and email and that it is our responsibility to stay informed of upcoming events/changes to schedules.

X _____

dancer signature

X _____

parent signature

Today's Date: _____

****** return this page, signed, to class in September to confirm you have read and understand our handbook and policies. Thank you!***