

BURKE CONROY

SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

We would like to take this opportunity to “WELCOME” you to the Burke Conroy School of Irish Dance! We hope that your child will enjoy and love Irish dancing as much as our previous students have, and as much as we do! Following is some information to help you get started:

CLASSES

As a beginner your child will attend class for 45 minutes, one day a week. Classes are held at the Irish Centre of Pittsburgh, located on 6686 Forward Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Several teachers and student assistants are available to enable us to break the classes down further by age and ability levels to ensure the closest attention for your child. Your child will be taught the foundations of Irish dance, which include foot placement, posture and timing, and exercises to help develop these skills. It is very important to practice these exercises at home, as they will help to strengthen muscles, and improve balance and coordination. Traditional dancers learned at this level include the Jig, Reel, and Slip Jig, as well as fun partner dances such as “Shoo” the Donkey and the Bonfire Dance.

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO BRING TO CLASS

- A SMILE, enthusiasm and a desire to work hard and have fun!
- To allow the teachers to visualize the student’s foot placement, posture and alignment, and to allow the student a full range of movement, students are asked to wear T-shirts and shorts or tight leggings. No jeans, long pants or long skirts are permitted. Hair must be pulled back and off their faces. Without proper attire, students will be asked to sit out and observe the class.
- Irish dancing shoes are not needed initially. Before making this purchase (approximately \$35.00/pair), let’s all determine this is the right activity for your child. We have a small used shoe inventory we can check to see if there is a suitable pair for sale. If not, the school will provide information on how and where to order the proper shoes. The school places a discounted group shoe order 1-2 times per year. Please do not go out and buy shoes until you have talked to an instructor.
- Ballet shoes (preferably black), jazz, or other light soled shoes are fine for the early beginner classes. No bare feet or socks.
- Please bring your own water bottles. NO chewing gum in class!

For the Parents

We understand that Irish dancing is a new experience for most of you. Our families are guided thru with the help of parent representatives from other levels. We know there is a great deal of information that is new, and we welcome your questions. We try to have a parent representative present during each beginner class. Parents and dancers are responsible for checking the information table in the dance hall and on the website for important notices, www.burke-conroy.com. Parents and siblings are asked to wait in the “pub” area in the back of the hall. Time is limited during classes; so if you have a question for an instructor, please email info@burke-conroy.com. Additionally, the parent representative for our new beginners, is Molly Rubenstein. She can be contacted at mroyerpgh@aol.com.

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Monthly fees for the year are as follows:

1 Dancer	\$47
2 Dancers	\$85
3 Dancers	\$111

We look forward to seeing you in September!