



DENNEHY
School of Irish Dance



Parent Handbook

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Dancers and Parents,

The Dennehy School of Irish Dance welcomes you to our family. We are proud to represent the families of the Chicagoland community in celebrating our heritage and culture. It is our goal to bring out the best in each student, emphasizing teamwork, sportsmanship and dedication to the community of Irish dance.

School History

The Dennehy School of Irish Dance has been in existence for over 50 years. It was first started by Dennis Dennehy (TCRG; ADCRG) and Marge Dennehy (TCRG; ADCRG).

Many of the Irish dancing teachers in the Chicagoland area were pupils of Dennis and Marge. Their most famous pupil by far starred in shows such as Riverdance, Lord of the Dance, and Celtic Tiger (and was the 1975 Senior Boys Under 17 World Champion)—Michael Flatley. In 2005, Dennis and Marge were inducted into the North American Feis Committee Hall of Fame.

The school is now under the direction of Dennis and Marge's daughter, Kathy Dennehy (TCRG; ADCRG). Kathy was a championship dancer herself and began teaching at the school when she was in her late teens. Former championship students of the Dennehy's have also joined the teaching ranks by passing their TCRG exams and becoming Commission Certified Irish Dance Teachers:

- Kathie Moloney-Horan
- Kathleen Mesterharm

The Dennehy Dancers compete in local, regional, national and international competitions where they have attained great success. The most recent being that of Michael Putman, Boys 16–17 2009 World Champion and Men 17–18 2010 All Ireland Champion.

The Dennehy Dancers perform annually in Ireland on Parade and Irish Fest, both at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest, Illinois. They have also performed in Dance Chicago at the Athenaeum Theatre in Chicago, at Chicago Bulls games and have been featured on the WGN Midday News. In addition, many of the Dennehy Dancers have performed with the traditional Irish musical groups The Chieftains, Cherish the Ladies and Mick Maloney.

Dennehy Parent's Club

Our mission is to function as the primary support vehicle for local Irish dance students, and to promote Irish dance and culture. Our dancers range from beginner level to championship level. Our accomplishments are many; local and interstate public performances, local, national and international competitions and championships.

The dance students are involved in community services as well, and donate their time and talents by providing performances to many communities in Illinois. This further promotes the Arts and enhances the Irish Culture as well as encouraging the children to be civic minded. Throughout the year, you may see us at churches, community festivals and events and libraries. The Parent's Club plays an integral part in making all this possible. We encourage all of you to become active members as we aim to help support your Irish dance experience.

The Parent's Club hosts various functions throughout the year (i.e., Annual Recital held in June at Chicago Gaelic Park and is open to all dancers, Christmas Party, etc.). There is a \$20 annual Parent's Club fee (checks should be made payable to "Dennehy Parents Club") that we ask all families to pay in order to participate in the Parent's Club sponsored events. The Parent's Club holds meetings throughout the year which are open to all families. It's a great way to get involved, give input and stay informed of anything happening in the school.



2022 Board of Directors:

Gina Hassett, President

Sheila Martin, Vice President

Meg Carr, Secretary

Rebekah Woolley, Treasurer

Kathy Carmody, Public Relations / Social Media

Communication: dennehyparentsclub@gmail.com

Class Schedule

Beginners:

Tuesday 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Wednesday 4:00 – 4:45 pm

Group I:

Wednesday 4:45 – 5:45 pm
Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Group II:

Monday 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Thursday 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Advanced Class:

Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 pm
Thursday 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Saturday 12:00 – 3:00pm

FEES:

Annual Registration Fee per family: \$35 per year (made payable to “Dennehy Irish Dancers”)

Parents’ Club Dues per family: \$20 per year. These dues are used to help with costs associated with the annual recital and Christmas Party. *(Please pay with a separate check made payable to the Dennehy Parents’ Club.)*

Tuition and the annual registration fee can be combined in one check and should be made payable to “Dennehy Irish Dancers”.

ATTENDANCE:

If a dancer misses a class due to illness or vacation, they may come on an alternate day during the month to make up the missed class. *Fees cannot be pro-rated based on how many classes your dancer attends.*

Payments can be made by check, cash, or PayPal to dennehy1962@hotmail.com

A **\$20 late fee** will be added for late payments. Your cooperation and timely payments are greatly appreciated!

Class Rules and Procedures

1. Dress attire should be shorts and t-shirt.
2. No jewelry that will be a distraction.
3. Dancers should be on time with shoes on and tied.
4. If children don't have dance shoes, they should wear gym shoes or ballet shoes (NO SANDALS OR FLIP FLOPS). FYI – there are used shoes for sale at the hall. You may find a second-hand pair of shoes which are cheaper than buying brand new ones.
5. Send children with water bottle to class. NO GLASS CONTAINERS.
6. No peanut snacks / food are allowed in the studio due to allergies.
7. Attendance is critical and practice at home is a must!!
8. Parents are not allowed to stay and watch the class.

Communication

All school communication is done via email. Our school's email address is: dennehydancers@aol.com. Our website address is www.dennehydancers.com. The website contains very helpful information and is updated regularly.

Ceili (Team Dancing)

Ceili Dance: a ceili (kay-lee) is a traditional Irish gathering for fun, fellowship, and laughs (or craic as the Irish might say). Traditional ceili dances were enjoyed at house parties and corner road gatherings in the rural countryside's. Decades later, they are still danced in Ireland.

The Dennehy School has had a long-standing tradition of team dancing and has a legacy of excellence in team competition. Team dancing has been a way to unite the individual dancers to join as one larger whole. It supports school spirit. It teaches the children about teamwork, dedication, patience, trust and resilience. It teaches them that being part of something can be much more fun than competing alone.

For those that wish to compete with a ceili team, the teachers will put teams together based on age level and those teams compete at local feiseanna and potentially Majors like the Oireachtas. Please keep in mind, any soloist that is planning on competing in a solo competition at a Major must be willing to compete in a team at that Major, if needed. Ceili is a great chance to meet new dance friends and be part of a team. If you have any further questions on ceili dancing, please ask one of the teachers.



Competitions – What is a Feis?

A Feis (pronounced fesh) is an Irish dancing competition. Feiseanna (plural) were traditionally cultural gatherings with events and competitions in music, dancing, singing and other aspects of Irish culture.

Competitors are split into age-groups, usually with one for each year (e.g. Under 9, Under 10, Under 11, etc.) They are then split into levels. The levels are based on their ability and success at previous feiseanna. Dancers move through the levels by fulfilling certain criteria, such as winning a first place in a dance against at least 5 other dancers per calendar year. A dancer's progression through the levels of competition also qualifies a dancer to compete at Regional and National competitions, which in turn, qualify a dancer to compete at the World Championships.

Levels

1. Grade Levels:

First Feis (100 level) – Dancers who are competing for the first time enter this competition. Typically the Light Jig and Reel.

Beginner 1 (200 level) - Upon completing their first feis, dancers then move to Beginner. When you place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a dance, your dancer can move to advanced beginner. Dancers must move up after a year, even if they have not yet placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

Beginner 2 (300 level) - Dancers automatically move to this level after competing for 1 *calendar year* at the Beginner level, regardless of having won a medal or not. Your dancer stays in this category until they win a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. Your dancer may stay in this category for the remainder of the year before moving up to the next level or they may move up at the next competition. You only move up in the dance that you won the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.

Novice (400 level) - In order to move up to the next level, the dancer must place 1st. Your dancer may stay in this category for the remainder of the year, and they only move up in the dance/dances that they won the 1st place in.

Open/Prizewinner (500 level) - Dancers must place 1st in the four main dances (Reel, Slip Jig, Hornpipe and Treble Jig) in this level before they can move up. For the Light Jig and Traditional Set, this is the last level these dances are offered.

****Even if your dancer has placed a first in Open/Prizewinner they should continue to dance that dance until they have all their firsts (i.e.: Have a first in reel, but not hp, tj or sj. Dancer should still compete at feiseanna for the reel). Practice makes perfect and it's always a good chance to get on stage.**

2. Championships

Preliminary Championships (600 level) - Open to those who have placed 1st in all of their dances in Open/Prizewinner at NAFC feiseanna. A dancer must win two 1st places to move up to Open Championships. If both 1sts are won in the same calendar year, your dancer is not required to move up until the January 1st of the following year. If you win one 1st place in one year and your second 1st place the following year, your dancer must move up at the next competition.

Open Championships (700 level) - For dancers who have gained two 1st places in Preliminary Championships. This is the final / highest level for feis competitions.

In **Beginner through Open/Prizewinner solo competitions**, each dance is judged and awarded separately. The dancers perform two or three at a time. Judges identify dancers by the number pinned to their costume. Results are posted and those who place receive medals or ribbons.

In **Preliminary Championship (PC)**, there are three judges, and the dancers perform 2 rounds:

1. Soft Shoe Round: 3 steps of a reel or 2 full steps & a 3rd steps on right foot only for a slip jig
2. Hard Shoe Round: 3 steps of a treble jig or 2 full steps & a 3rd steps on right foot only of a hornpipe.

A limited number of feiseanna have the PC dancers perform 3 rounds in the competition (soft shoe, hard shoe and set dance). Additionally, some feiseanna offer a separate set dance competition for the PC dancers.

In **Open Championship**, there are 3 judges, and the dancers perform 3 rounds:

1. Soft Shoe Round: 3 steps of a reel or 2 full steps & a 3rd steps on right foot only for a slip jig
2. Hard Shoe Round: 3 steps of a treble jig or 2 full steps & a 3rd steps on right foot only of a hornpipe
3. Set Dance Round

PC and OC competitions announce their awards and have a ceremony to present awards.

Each feis has their own specifications as regards to specials, so you should read each syllabus thoroughly.

Apart from the competitions, there are also other aspects of a feis. There are almost always vendors of shoes, socks, wigs, music and everything else a dancer might need.

Many people take their old and outgrown dresses to feiseanna and hang them up for sale. It's a good place to go and buy a secondhand costume, especially seeing that some of them are nearly new. It is always recommended that you get an opinion from one of the teachers or from a senior dancer if you see something that you may like, before the purchase is completed. Lastly, a feis can be a place to meet with other students from your school and lend moral support to each other, and just have a good time together!

Feis Registration Websites

The Midwest Region uses 2 main websites for feis registration:

1. www.quickfeis.com
2. www.feisworx.com

Both sites list upcoming feisanna. When initially registering, you will create log-in info that you will use for every registration. Each site is user-friendly, but make sure you remember your log-in and passwords. Other feis registration websites are www.efeis.com, www.feisweb.com

These websites also include links to the feis website, feis syllabus and feis hotel information.

Stage Schedule

Each feis will post a Stage Schedule online a few days prior to the feis. The Stage Schedule lists each stage and the order of the competitions that will run on each stage. There may also be other useful information on a stage schedule: what time competitions are expected to start, how many dancers are entered for a particular dance, etc.

Each level has a corresponding number (100 First feis, 200 Beginner, 300 Adv. Beginner, 400 Novice, 500 Open/PW, 600 PC, 700 OC) and the last number will be the age of your dancer.

Each dance has an acronym: LJ- Light Jig, RL-Reel, SJ-Slip Jig, HP-Hornpipe, TJ-Treble Jig, TS-Traditional Set, SPD-St. Patrick's Day (only for 300). For traditional set, make sure to ask the teachers which dance to register for as there is a drop down menu of choices.

So for a beginner dancer competing in the light jig who is 8 years old the stage schedule would read 208LJ.

We have included a copy of the 2017 Autumn Feis stage schedule for reference purposes only on the next page. Please keep in mind, each feis committee prepares their own stage schedule and the order of competitions and the stages those competitions are on will not be the same for each feis. It's very important to review the schedule prior to the day of the feis so you have an idea what stage and time your dancer(s) will be dancing.

Sample Stage Schedule

2017 CHICAGO AUTUMN FEIS



Stage 1	
984C	8
209LJ	8
309LJ	9
209RL	8
309RL	12
209SJ	4
309SJ	11
313TJ	1
309HP	11
314PD	1
309TJ	15
409LJ-A	16
309PD	13
409LJ-B	15
413LJ/414LJ	8
409RL-A	17
409RL-B	17
413RL	12
414RL	5
409SJ-A	16
409SJ-B	15
413SJ/414SJ	13
409HP-A	14
409HP-B/459HP	14
413HP/463HP	10
414HP	5
409TJ-A	15
409TJ-B/459TJ	16
413TJ/414TJ/463TJ	19
409TS-A	14
409TS-B/459TS	15
413TS/414TS/463TS	10
509RL-A	11
509RL-B/559RL	14
513RL/563RL	20
514RL	9
509SJ	16
513SJ	19
514SJ	10
509HP/559HP	12
513HP	11
514HP	8
509TJ/559TJ	21
513TJ	15
514TJ	10
509TS/559TS	13
513TS	5
514TS	7
513SD/514SD	11

Stage 2	
981C	6
207LJ	15
208LJ	11
257LJ/258LJ	6
307LJ	9
308LJ	23
357LJ/358LJ	5
207RL	14
208RL	11
257RL/258RL	6
307RL	11
357RL/358RL	5
308RL	22
207SJ/208SJ	10
307SJ	6
308SJ	17
307HP/357HP	10
308HP/358HP	14
307TJ/357TJ	8
308TJ/358TJ	18
307PD/357PD	9
308PD/358PD	17
407LJ	16
408LJ	19
457LJ/458LJ	7
407RL	20
408RL-A	12
408RL-B	12
457RL/458RL	8
507RL/557RL	5
508RL	12
407SJ	17
408SJ	18
507SJ/508SJ	11
407HP/457HP	9
408HP	8
508HP	11
407TJ	11
408TJ	9
457TJ/458TJ	5
508TJ/557TJ	12
407TS/457TS	12
408TS/458TS	12
508TS/557TS	10

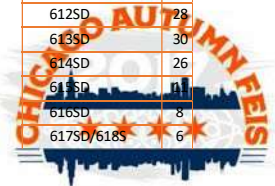
Stage 3	
983C	9
311LJ/312LJ/362LJ	6
411LJ	20
412LJ	8
311RL/312RL/362RL	5
411RL-A	14
411RL-B/461RL	15
412RL	13
311SJ/312SJ	4
411SJ-A	14
411SJ-B	13
412SJ	13
311HP/312HP	4
411HP-A	14
411HP-B/461HP	15
412HP	11
311TJ/312TJ/362TJ	7
411TJ-A	12
411TJ-B/461TJ	13
412TJ	15
411TS/461TS	20
412TS	9
311PD/312PD	7
511RL-A	17
511RL-B	17
512RL-A	19
512RL-B	18
511SJ-A	20
511SJ-B	20
512SJ-A	17
512SJ-B	17
511HP-A	14
511HP-B	13
512HP-A	16
512HP-B	16
511TJ-A	20
511TJ-B	19
512TJ-A	15
512TJ-B	14
511TS-A	12
511TS-B	12
512TS	18
511SD	13
512SD	11

Stage 4	
982C	9
205LJ/206LJ	14
306LJ	8
310LJ	6
205RL	5
206RL	8
306RL	7
310RL	7
206SJ	1
210SJ	1
306SJ	4
310SJ	4
306HP	2
310HP/360HP	6
306TJ	3
310TJ	6
306PD	2
310PD/360PD	7
410LJ-A	14
410LJ-B/460LJ	15
416LJ	1
410RL-A	18
410RL-B/460RL	18
415RL/416RL	2
410SJ-A	20
410SJ-B	19
415SJ/416SJ	3
410HP-A	18
410HP-B	18
415HP/416HP	4
410TJ-A	18
410TJ-B	17
415TJ/416TJ	4
410TS	22
415TS/416TS	3
510RL-A	19
510RL-B/560RL	19
515RL	5
516RL	9
510SJ-A	15
510SJ-B	14
515SJ/516SJ	11
510HP-A	16
510HP-B/560HP	17
515HP/516HP	10
510TJ-A	15
510TJ-B/560TJ	16
515TJ	5
516TJ	6
510TS	7
515TS/516TS	10
510SD-A	13

Stage 5	
719OC/769OC/720OC	10
718OC	7
717OC/767OC	26
716OC/766OC	26
715OC	17

Stage 6	
985C	5
710OC/760OC	10
711OC/761OC	12
712OC/762OC	13
713OC/763OC	22
714OC/764OC	21

Stage 7	
108SJ	4
109SJ	1
107RL	4
108RL	7
109RL	1
107LJ	5
108LJ	7
109LJ	1
609SD	16
610SD	24
611SD	29
612SD	28
613SD	30
614SD	26
615SD	8
616SD	8
617SD/618S	6



Stage 8	
609PC	19
610PC	24
611PC	30
612PC	29
613PC	33
614PC	32
615PC	15
616PC	9
617PC/618PC	12

All stages EXCEPT 5 & 8 will begin promptly at 8:00 am

Stages 5 & 8 will begin once all the competitors in the first competition have checked in or when all celli competitions are finished - whichever comes first.

Soda bread/Fine arts/visual arts must be turned in by 10am at the PC/OC awards area

Music and vocal competitions will be next door at the Merner Field House between 10am and 2pm

Championship competitions in bold border will run concurrently

There will be a 30 minute lunch break around noon

Feis Survival Tips

Many of our dancers who are competing for the first time or our beginners, wear a Dennehy Jumper with a blouse or wear a white blouse with a blue skirt. They will also need poodle socks and their dancing shoes. Your dancer doesn't need to wear a wig but there will be some kids in their competitions with them on.

When you arrive to the Feis, go to the registration desk (set up alphabetically), and get your registration card. Your competitor number is listed on one side and the competition numbers in which you are entered are on the other side. Verify that the competitions listed are correct. Check the stage assignment sheet and map to locate which stage your competitions are on. Also, the competitor # needs to be worn by the dancer. It can be attached with a safety pin or yarn / ribbon. Many feiseanna have these items available for families but it's probably a good idea to have your own just in case.

Figure Ceili competitions are usually first. Solo competitions usually start after all of the figure competitions are complete. Check with a volunteer of the feis to verify the order of competition.

Occasionally check the competition progress for the stages you will be dancing on. There will be a large board listing the competition numbers located at each stage. As a competition is completed, the number is crossed off. Depending on the # of competitors in each competition, it's a good idea to be at your stage at least 3 competitions ahead of yours to be ready to check in.

Results are posted on the Results Board - check about 30 minutes to 1 hour after the competition is over for your results.

Wear comfortable shoes - you will be walking a lot!

Other Feis Tips!

Many competitions allow families to "camp" in certain designated areas at a feis. Therefore, you may want to bring a blanket and some chairs to use during the day.

Bring a busy bag for the younger kids. Older kids can bring a book or an iPod / iPad. You may have a wait in between dances.

Bring everything you think you could possibly need. Have a supply of band-aids, aspirin, shoe polish, extra shoelaces, sock glue, tape, bobby pins, wig, hair donut, safety pins, bloomers, etc.

If you are attending a feis out of town and arrive the evening before, most feiseanna have registration available that night. This will cut down on time the morning of the feis.

Bring a pair of shorts for the dancer to wear in between dances.

If time allows, practice your steps just before your competition begins.

Bring a highlighter and pen. Use the highlighter to highlight your competitions and cross off the completed competitions on your stage and keep track of your competitions.

GOOD LUCK, RELAX AND HAVE FUN!

Chicago Autumn Feis

Each November, the Dennehy Parents Club hosts the Chicago Autumn Feis. An event this size requires many volunteers. If your family satisfies certain volunteer requirements, your dancer will either receive a tuition credit equal to 1 month's tuition or a travel stipend (if they are travelling to a Major). The amount of the travel stipend is dependent on the net feis profits and is calculated the January following our feis.

Tuition Credit

Volunteering is not mandatory at our feis. However, if you volunteer for one 3 hour shift, then your dancer will be eligible for a tuition credit which will be applied to your tuition at the end of the dance year (the June following the feis).

Travel Stipend Requirements

To keep everything as fair as possible to all families, the criteria below must be met by our Ceili & Soloist families who have a dancer competing at any major competitions in order to receive a travel stipend. Major competitions include the Oireachtas, Nationals, & World Championships. **If you do not meet the criteria, your dancer(s) will not receive any travel stipends.** Also, dancers who are only performing traditional set, are not eligible to receive a travel stipend. Finally, any dancer competing in solos at a Major must be willing to participate on a ceili team, if needed. If they are needed and choose not to be on a ceili team, they will not be eligible to receive a stipend (even if they have satisfied the feis volunteer requirements).

The following is a list of the volunteer requirements for our families:

1. Chair or Co-Chair a Committee (Someone from your committee must attend the feis meetings or send an emailed report to the Feis Chairperson). This also includes set up AND tear down for your committee. Chairs / Co-chairs can't leave the feis until their committee / area is wrapped up and cleaned up.
2. FOR THOSE WHO ARE **NOT** A COMMITTEE CHAIR OR CO-CHAIR:
 1. Option #1
 - Do an airport run to pick up our Adjudicators & Musicians the day before the Feis & drop them at the Feis hotel, and
 - Work at least one 3 hour shift at the Feis, and
 - Help for 3 hours with Feis set up or for 3 hours with Feis take down
 2. Option #2
 - Work at least one 3 hour shift at the Feis, and
 - Do an airport run after the Feis ends to drop our Adjudicators & Musicians off, and
 - Help for 3 hours with Feis set up or for 3 hours with Feis take down
 3. Option #3
 - Do an airport run to pick up our Adjudicators & Musicians the day before the Feis & drop them at the Feis hotel, and
 - Work at least one 3 hour shift at the Feis, and
 - Do an airport run after the Feis ends to drop our Adjudicators & Musicians off
 4. Option #4
 - Work 2 shifts at the Feis (6 hours), and
 - Help for 3 hours with Feis set up OR for 3 hours with Feis take down

Dancers in Group 3 & the Last Class who want to receive a travel stipend are expected to help with either set up or take down. They're also expected to help during the Feis with running results to tabulations, helping younger dancers start to the music (morning comps), older dancers can be a stage monitor, etc.

NOTE: The above requirements are equal to 9 hours of volunteer time and will fulfill the stipend requirements for single dancer families.

****Any family with more than one dancer who is not a Committee Chair will be required to complete 12 hours in order to receive a stipend****

In addition to choosing one of the above requirements, you also need to make sure the following items are taken care of in order to receive a travel stipend:

1. Your Parents Club dues and annual registration fee must be paid.
2. Your tuition must be up to date.

If your family meets the above requirements and your dancer is travelling to a major to dance in solos or a ceili, your dancer will receive a travel stipend.

With the amount of work it takes in order to run a successful Feis, we hope you will all help out! If you can help recruit additional volunteers, we would appreciate it. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, friends from other dance schools, former dance families, and HS or college aged siblings are all welcome!! We appreciate everyone's support!!

Many families go above & beyond the volunteer requirements and for that, we thank you! Volunteering at our feis is a great way to meet new families and become more involved in our school so please consider helping out!

Majors

In addition to feiseanna, there are also Major competitions. The three commonly referred to Majors are:

1. Mid-America Oireachtas (Thanksgiving)
2. North American Irish Dance Championships (referred to as the Nationals) (4th of July)
3. World Championships (Easter time)

These majors rotate locations yearly. The 2022 Majors will be held in:

- World Championships - TBA
- National Championships will be held in Nashville, Tennessee from July 1-5, 2022
- Midwest Oireachtas will be held in Indianapolis, IN from Nov 24-27, 2022

Oireachtas

The Oireachtas is a major competition which differs from a feis. It's not divided up into levels (beginner 1, beginner 2, novice ...). Everyone from the same birth year competes together & the youngest age group is u8. The dancers are required to dance 3 steps of a light shoe & 3 steps of a hard shoe (reel vs slip jig & treble jig vs hornpipe depending on the age of your dancer). Your dancer will also need to know a set dance in case they make it to the recall round. After the light shoe & hard shoe rounds, the scores for each dancer are tabulated & the top 50% make the recall & dance their set.

In order to compete at the Majors, there are qualification requirements that your dancer must meet. The qualification period runs from October 1 through September 30 so qualifications for this year's Oireachtas began last October and will continue until this September 30. In order to compete at the Oireachtas, the qualifications are as follows:

- Dancers u8, u9, u10: Teachers Discretion. We take many things into consideration - dancers must be in groups 2 or 3, they must attend class at least 2x per week in August and then 3x per week beginning in September each year (which includes attending the Oireachtas class) & they must be up for a challenge. Competing in solo's at the Oireachtas takes a lot of commitment & determination from the dancer & family.
- Dancers u11: **Must be in Open Prizewinner & place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their Reel, Slip Jig, Treble Jig and Hornpipe** during the qualification period **OR** they must have competed in u10 solo's at the Oireachtas & have gotten a recall. Dancers who are already in PC (Preliminary Championships) at this age must place in the top 50% at a competition during the qualification period.
- Dancers u12 & u13: **Must be in Open Prizewinner & place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their Reel, Slip Jig, Treble Jig and Hornpipe** during the qualification period. Dancers who are already in PC (Preliminary Championships) at this age must place in the top 50% at a competition during the qualification period.
- Dancers u14 & Older: **Must be in PC & place in the top 50% at a competition** during the qualification period.
- Once dancers are in Open Championships, they are automatically qualified to compete at the Oireachtas each year.

Please also note that the Dennehy teachers have the right to add more qualifications to this list.

Your dancer will need a solo costume & must be prepared to attend class at least 3x a week in order to be prepared for this level of competition. For those who aren't prepared to compete at this level yet or for those who don't meet the qualifications, there is a separate traditional set dance competition that is offered each year at the Oireachtas that your dancer can compete in. This is a nice opportunity for those dancers who are on a ceili team but not yet ready or qualified to do solo's.

As we mentioned earlier, each age group is assigned a certain set of dances they are required to compete with at the Oireachtas. The required dances by age group are as follows:

1	Ladies 22 & Over	1995 or Earlier	TJ, Slip Jig and Set of Choice
2	Ladies Under 22	1997/1996	TJ, Slip Jig and Set of Choice
3	Ladies Under 20	1998	HP, Reel and Set of Choice
4	Ladies Under 19	1999	TJ, Slip Jig and Set of Choice
5	Girls Under 18	2000	HP, Reel and Set of Choice
6	Girls Under 17	2001	TJ, Slip Jig and Set of Choice
7	Girls Under 16	2002	HP, Reel and Set of Choice
8	Girls Under 15	2003	TJ, Slip Jig and Set of Choice
9	Girls Under 14	2004	HP, Reel and set of Choice
10	Girls Under 13	2005	TJ, Slip Jig and Set of Choice
11	Girls Under 12	2006	HP, Reel and Set of Choice
12	Girls Under 11	2007	TJ, Slip Jig and Set of Choice
13	Girls Under 10	2008	HP, Reel and Jig Set Dance
14	Girls Under 9	2009	TJ, Reel and Traditional Set
15	Girls Under 8	2010 or Later	TJ, Reel and Traditional Set
16	Men 20 & Over	1997 or Earlier	TJ, Reel and set of Choice
17	Men Under 20	1998	HP, Reel and set of Choice
18	Men Under 19	1999	TJ, Reel and set of Choice
19	Boys Under 18	2000	HP, Reel and set of Choice
20	Boys Under 17	2001	TJ, Reel and set of Choice
21	Boys Under 16	2002	HP, Reel and set of Choice
22	Boys Under 15	2003	TJ, Reel and set of Choice
23	Boys Under 14	2004	HP, Reel and set of Choice
24	Boys Under 13	2005	TJ, Reel and set of Choice
25	Boys Under 12	2006	HP, Reel and set of Choice
26	Boys Under 11	2007	TJ, Reel and set of Choice
27	Boys Under 10	2008	HP, Reel and Jig Set Dance
28	Boys Under 9	2009	TJ, Reel and Trad Set
29	Boys Under 8	2010 or later	TJ, Reel and Trad Set

North American Irish Dance Championships (Nationals)

Similar to an Oireachtas, there are qualification rules that a dancer must achieve in order to compete at the North American Irish Dance Championships:

1. All Open Championship dancers are automatically qualified and may enter.
2. All dancers in the Under 10 age group and older who do not meet the above qualification must qualify at their Regional Oireachtas. The top ten dancers plus 25% of the competition (based on number of actual dancers, not entries) will qualify, subject to them achieving a recall.
3. Under 8 and Under 9 dancers will be entered at the discretion of their teacher.
 - Recalled dancers from the previous year's championship are NOT automatically qualified.
 - Preliminary dancers who achieve their required first place wins by May 1st and opt to enter based on Rule 1 (above), must enter all future feiseanna as an Open Championship dancer.

World Irish Dancing Championships (Worlds)

In order to qualify to compete at the Worlds, you must qualify at your Regional or National Oireachtas. The number of qualifiers from the respective competitions at a Regional or National Oireachtas is as follows:

- (a) For Senior Ladies and Senior Men competitions, the number of qualifiers is 7 where the number of competitors is twenty or less plus one additional qualifier for each five, or part of five in excess of the first twenty competitors (i.e. competition with 25 competitors - 8 qualifiers).
- (b) For all remaining age groups, the number of qualifiers is 5 where the number of competitors is twenty or less plus one additional qualifier for each ten, or part of ten in excess of the first twenty competitors (i.e. competition with 125 competitors - 16 qualifiers).

Tanning

For the Major competitions, most dancers do spray tan or use makeup (Rimmel, Lancome, etc.) on their legs. The stages are large and have bright lights so the tan helps the dancer's legs to stand out. If tanning locally, we recommend Tropical Sensation (they tan in a room in our studio). They can be reached at 773-551-7856. There are also tanning vendors at the Majors which can tan you on-site.

Be sure to shower prior to the tanning appointment. Bring bathing suit bottoms for your dancer to tan in and loose fitting pants to wear after the appointment. Your dancer cannot shower after being spray tanned, and some dancers do rinse (no soap) after an 8 hour timeframe.

Make-up & Wig Tutorials

We know most girls love to wear make-up; however, there are rules regarding make-up that have been implemented by An Coimisiún (Irish Dancing governing body) and MUST be followed:

Rule 4.5.1: Make up will not be permitted for any dancer in the first two grades (First Feis, Beginner 1 and 2) up to and including the under 12 age group.

Rule 4.5.2: Make-up (including false eyelashes and tanner on the face) is not permitted for dancers, in either solo or team competitions, up to and including the Under 10 age group.

Make Up Tutorial Links:

Basic Make-up Looks: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_QHrRyWr1Q

Make-up Looks for Majors: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PES-Gj8QIOM>

Dramatic Make-up Looks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSG1eh0Z1u4>

Wig Tutorial Link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4GfroHYCq3Em7_SA5N2nXA

Before you get started with your wig, here's a few tips:

- Make sure to have all supplies ready – wig, ponytail holders, brush / comb, bobby pins, poof comb / bump, donut, hairspray
- Ponytails need to be very secure so you may want to use 2 tiebacks. Also, it's recommended to put 1 ponytail on top of your head and a second one at the back of your head. This will help to secure the wig.
- It's easier to put the poof comb in before you put the donut on

Performances / Shows

Dennehy dancers perform at various shows throughout the year. Performances are arranged by our teachers. Parents are encouraged to arrange performances for their schools, churches, family and any organization which they are involved. Most shows are open to dancers in Groups 2 and 3 and Last Class. Occasionally, Group 1 and Beginner students will be asked to participate in shows. If a show is booked for a family member and you would like your dancer to perform, please arrange this with the teachers before the show.

Students in Groups 2 and 3 and Last Class are expected to make an effort to do as many shows as possible. When you sign up for a show you are making a commitment that you will be there and the performance is based on you being there. If you cannot make the show or shows that you signed up for, please notify one of the dance teachers so that other arrangements can be made. Dancers are expected to arrive approximately 60 minutes prior to the show with their wigs and make-up on. Costumes can be put on after the teacher practices the show numbers.

We are always looking for a couple of parents who are willing to work the music (normally through an iPad) and announce. If anyone is willing to volunteer, please let the teachers know.

Dancing Injuries & Foot Problems

As with any sport, injuries may be an issue. If your dancer suffers a foot injury, we recommend they make an appointment with a podiatrist to have the injury looked at. A dad of a past dancer is a podiatrist and examines many of our dancers injuries.

Dr. Kevin O'Connor - Olympia Foot & Ankle Care, Ltd.

Tinley Park Location:

6703 W. 159th St., Suite 107

708-799-2900

Flossmoor Location:

19801 Governors Highway, Suite 150

708-799-2900

Blisters

Blisters are caused by friction. The effects are made worse by dampness. Before the blister actually appears, you will always feel pain or a "hot spot". As soon as your feet start to hurt, find the cause and remove it.

Tight or new shoes are also a common cause. If you have had your shoes for a while, and your feet are growing, it may be time to get a new pair. Otherwise, you need to break the shoes in and soften them.

If you already have a blister, or are getting one, a piece of moleskin, surgical tape, or even duct tape can relieve further rubbing, and therefore stop the blister from hurting so much. There are also many blister-specific products available, such as Ezees Ankle Booties (blister bootie available at Touch of Ireland or feis vendors) or Band Aid Blister Block.

Accessories

Poodle Socks

Poodle socks are the Irish Dance sock, and they aren't so much an accessory as a necessity. They are white, to contrast with the black of the shoes and show off your fancy footwork. The top part of the sock has a "bubble" elasticized texture, which helps keep them up.

Sock Glue

Despite the elastic in them, socks can and do fall down. Sock glue is the answer. It comes in a bottle with a roll-on top. All you do is put some on your legs, then stick your socks to it. They'll stay up for hours. The glue washes off easily with soap and water.

Buckles

These can be bought from most Irish dance shoe vendors, and are worn on hard shoes. The buckle is attached to the front of the shoe with the laces or attached to an elastic band and worn over the front part of the shoe.

Tape

There are a few types of tape that dancers use in competition and at shows.

1. Gaffers Tape – this tape is applied to the tip and heel of a shoe and prevents the dancer from slipping. Available online at homedepot.com or uline.com.
2. White Electrical Tape
3. Black Electrical Tape

Costume Bags

Costume bags protect your costume and come in different shapes and sizes. Some are full dress size and some are half size for ease of carrying. Dress bags can be purchased from many feis vendors, Luxe Accessories located in Worth or online from Kelso.

Shoes

Irish dance shoes can be purchased at Touch of Ireland. The address and phone number is above. Touch of Ireland carries a full line of soft shoes for girls and boys and also hard shoes. Touch of Ireland also carries most accessories needed for competition.

Wigs

Wigs are available for purchase from Touch of Ireland, Luxe Accessories, feis vendors or online. There are a wide variety of styles and colors so it's probably best to try one on before you purchase it.

Rhinestones

Dancers of all ages can “bling” their solo costumes. Bling can be purchased online at Dreamtimecreations.com and Firemountaingems.com.

Costumes

Dennehy Jumpers / Costumes – our ceili dancers and many of our beginners and advanced beginners wear either a Dennehy jumper or a costume. Cost for each are:

Jumper / Cape / Blouse / Headband - \$200

Costume / Cape / Headband - \$650

If you are interested in purchasing a jumper or a costume, please contact Alyssa Harling. Alyssa will measure your dancer and submit the measurements to our dressmaker.

Solo Costumes – once your dancer reaches Novice, most families are interested in purchasing a solo costume (either new or used).

Used Costumes

If you travel to competitions, there will usually be a used dress rack that you can look through and try costumes on. There are also used dress websites that you can search for the perfect solo dress:

1. Dennehy Parents Group on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1712279579015029/>
2. Feis Dresses: www.feisdresses.com
3. Dance Again: www.dance-again.com
4. Get That Dress: www.getthatdress.com
5. Second Chance Dress: www.secondchancedance.biz

New Costumes

There are many dressmakers that families can go to in order to have a custom made costume. Some dressmakers we recommend are:

1. John Carey Designs: www.johncareydesigns.ie
2. Eire Designs by Gavin Doherty: www.gavindoherty.co.uk
3. Elevation Designs: www.elevationdesign.ie
4. Rising Star Designs: www.risingstardesigns.co.uk

Seamstress – in the event your new or used costume needs alterations, we have included the names of a few we have found that are good at working on Irish dance costumes.

Karen Oliver
10727 S. Hoyne
Chicago, IL 60655
773-841-8341

Mary Beth Glenn
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-546-7862

Theresa Hamm
Evergreen Park, IL
618-604-1928

Social Media & Helpful Websites

The Dennehy website is www.dennehydancers.com Schedules, pictures, contact information and history of the school are listed here.

Facebook

We also have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/dennehydancers/>

We share pictures, updates, inspiration, etc. Many feiseanna and Majors have their own Facebook pages too. Feel free to share and like our pages.

Instagram

We also have an Instagram account @dennehyirishdancers

One of the best ways to keep and recruit new dancers is through social media. If so inclined, feel free to leave a positive review on Facebook or share any of our pictures and information. Also, we urge you not to post anything negative about other dancers, schools, etc. If you wouldn't say it to another person, please do not type it. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

An Coimisiún le Rinci Gaelacha (CLRG - The Irish Dancing Commission)

Provides information about international competitions, teacher exams, teachers & adjudicators.

www.clrge.ie

North American Feis Commission (NAFC)

The North American Feis Commission is an organization for Feis Managers responsible for organizing feiseanna in Canada and North America. This website will keep you informed as to all the feiseanna for the current year.

www.northamericanfeiscommission.org

Irish Dance Teachers of North America (IDTANA)

Information regarding officers, schools, and regional championships. Annually, the IDTANA sponsors the North American Championships during the first week of July.

www.idtana.org

Irish Dance Teachers Association of Mid-America (IDTAMA)

Information regarding schools and our regional championship (the Oireachtas) which is held over Thanksgiving weekend.

www.midamericaregion.com

Beginner Jig

The first dance your child will learn is called the Beginner Jig. There are 4 steps in the Jig & for each step your dancer will need to know the 1st Part, the Middle Part (done differently for the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th steps), & the Finish. Each step is performed on the right foot & left foot. Below is the breakdown of each part when we first teach it to your dancer. It sounds very confusing when it's broken down like this, but you'd be surprised how the kids can pick it up when they're shown the steps! We will first explain how the parts are done & then underneath the explanation of the parts are the actual Jig steps.

Explanation of Beginner Jig Parts

1st Part:

- Jump in for 1 (one foot on top of the other, toes should be facing out),
- Kick out & hop for 2 (hold the leg out straight & hop with toes pointed down),
- Bend up in back & hop for 3 (bend the same leg that just did the kick out & hop),
- Step down in back 1, in front 2, in back 3, & in front 4 (rocking back & forth onto each leg)

Middle Part for the 2nd Step: 4 in the Front, 4 in the Back

- Stand with 1 leg bent up in back & hop
- Step in front of the standing leg 1, in back 2, in front 3, & in back 4 (rocking front & back onto each leg)
- Bend the free leg up in back & hop
- Step down in back 1, in front 2, in back 3, & in front 4 (rocking back & forth onto each leg)

Middle Part for the 3rd Step: Hop Across & Kick Out

- Stand with 1 leg bent up in back
- Hop & bring the bent leg to the front, crossing it over the standing leg & putting it down on the floor
- Kick the back leg straight out & hop with toes pointed down
- Bend that same leg up in back & hop
- Step down in back 1, in front 2, in back 3, & in front 4 (rocking back & forth onto each leg)
- Repeat the above with the opposite leg

Middle Part for the 4th Step: Hop Up, Hop Up, Hop 1, 2, 3, 4 & Hop Back, Hop Back, Hop Back 1, 2, 3, 4 (Basically Hop up 3x & Hop back 3x)

- Stand with 1 leg bent up in back & hop
- Step in front of the standing leg & now bend the standing leg up in back
- Hop with that leg bent up in back
- Step in front of the standing leg & now bend the standing leg up in back
- Hop & step in front 1, in back 2, in front 3, & in back 4 (rocking back & forth onto each leg)
- Bend the front leg up in back & hop
- Put it down in back behind the other foot

- Bend the front leg up in back & hop
- Put it down in back behind the other foot
- Bend the front leg up in back & hop
- Step down in back 1, in front 2, in back 3, & in front 4 (rocking back & forth onto each leg)

Finish:

- Kick out & hop (hold the leg out straight & hop with toes pointed down)
- Bend up in back & hop (bend the same leg that just did the kick out & hop)
- Put the leg down in back (behind the other foot)
- Pick up the front leg & bend it up in back & hop
- Step down in back 1, in front 2, in back 3, & in front 4 (rocking back & forth onto each leg)

Actual Jig Steps

1st Jig Step – The 1st Part is done 3x & the Finish 1x

- Jump in & kick out, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Jump in & kick out, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Jump in & kick out, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Finish kick out, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

2nd Jig Step – The 1st Part is done 2x, the Middle Part is done, & then the Finish 1x

- Jump in & kick out, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Jump in & kick out, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Middle Part of the 2nd – Hop 4 in the Front, Hop 4 in the Back (hop in front 1, 2, 3, 4 & hop in back 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Finish kick out, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

3rd Jig Step – The 1st Part is done 1x, the Middle Part is done, & then the Finish 1x

- Jump in & kick out, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Middle Part of the 3rd – Hop Across, Kick Out, Hop Back 1, 2, 3, 4 (& repeat with the other foot) Hop Across, Kick Out, Hop Back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Finish kick out, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

4th Jig Step – The 1st Part is done 1x, the Middle Part is done, & then the Finish 1x

- Jump in & kick out, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Middle Part of the 4th – Hop up 1, Hop up 2, Hop up 1, 2, 3, 4 & Hop Back 1, Hop Back 2, Hop Back 3, 2, 3, 4
- Finish kick out, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

Beginner Reel

There are 3 steps in the Beginner Reel & each step will be done on the right & left foot. Your child will need to know 7's & change 2, 3's for the Reel.

7's: Put 1 foot in front of the other with the toes pointed out. Step in front 2, in back 3, in front 4, in back 5, in front 6, in back 7. Dancers move to their right or left when doing the 7's. When moving to the right, the right foot is in front & when moving to the left, the left foot should be in front.

Change 2, 3's: Start with 1 leg out straight in front while standing on the other leg. Leap forward onto the leg out in front & bend the standing leg up in back. Step in front with the bent leg for 2 & in back with the other leg for 3.

1st Reel Step

- Point to the knee for 1
- Then do the 7's....2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Change 2, 3 (step in front 2 & in back 3)
- Change 2, 3 (step in front 2 & in back 3)
- Change 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Change 2, 3
- Change 2, 3

2nd Reel Step

- Brush hop heel step (then pick the heel up)
- Change (then stepping in front) heel step
- Change 2,3
- Change 2, 3
- Change 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Change 2, 3
- Change & kick out (the other leg) straight
- Change bend (bend the leg you were just standing on)

3rd Reel Step

- Point, point (to the knee)
- Change 2, 3
- Change 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Brush out & hop, brush back & hop, brush out & hop heel step
- Point, point (to the knee)
- Change 2, 3

Group 1 – Advanced Jig

1st Step of Advanced Jig:

- Point to knee, hop in back, hop in front 1, 2, 3
- Point to knee, hop in back, hop in front 1, 2, 3
- Hop (in front) 1, 2, 3
- Hop (in front) 1, 2, 3
- Finish to the knee, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

2nd Step of Advanced Jig:

- Jump in, to the knee, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Brush hop heel step, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- To the knee, toe step, heel step, toe step
- Finish to the knee, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

3rd Step of Advanced Jig:

- Jump in, to the knee, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Hop step (in front), hit (your heel) hop down, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Hop step (in front), hit (your heel) hop down, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Finish to the knee, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

4th Step of Advanced Jig:

- Jump in, to the knee, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Brush hop heel step, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Hop point, hop point (on floor), hop toe (in back), hop stamp (in front)
- Finish to the knee, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

5th Step of Advanced Jig:

- Jump in, to the knee, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Finish kick out, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4
- Leap (with the leg from the back), heel step, knee back
- Finish to the knee, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

6th Step of Advanced Jig:

- Hop heel, hop toe (in back), hop in front 1, 2, 3, 4
- Hop up, hop up, hop point (on floor), hop point (to knee)
- Kick out hop back, kick out hop back
- Finish to the knee, hop back, hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

Group 1 – Advanced Reel

1st Step of Advanced Reel:

- Whip 1, 2, 3, 4, leap 1, 2, front slice 1, 2, lift hop back
- Change 1, 2, 3, 4, leap 1, 2, front slice 1, 2, lift hop back

2nd Step of Advanced Reel:

- Hop point (on floor), hop back
- Hop point (on floor), hop back
- Whip 1, 2, 3, 4, leap down
- To the knee 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Jump straight, jump switch, change point, hop back

Group 1 – Slip Jig

1st Step of Slip Jig:

- Step step, hop point (to knee), leap, step step, change 1, 2, 3
- Step step, hop point (to knee), leap, step step, change 1, 2, 3
- Hop 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Hop 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Point (to knee) 1, 2, 3, 4, point (to knee), change 2, 3

2nd Step of Slip Jig:

- Step step, hop point (to knee), leap
- Step step, hop point (to knee), leap
- Step step, hop point, hop point (2x to knee)
- Change brush hop heel step
- Change hit hop, hit kick, change hit hop, hit kick
- Hop back, hop back, hop back
- Point (to knee), change 2, 3

Group 1 - Hornpipe

1st Step of Hornpipe:

- Tip change, tip change, treble hop back
- Tip change, tip change, treble hop back
- Tip change, tip change, treble hop back
- Tip change 2, 3
- Tip change 2, 3
- Tip change 2, 3, treble hop back
- Tip change, tip change, treble hop back
- Tip change, tip change, heel step, tip change heel step, tip change, treble hop back

2nd Step of Hornpipe:

- Tip change, tip change, treble jump step, treble jump step, treble hop back
- Tip change, tip change, treble jump step, treble jump step, treble hop back
- Tip change, tip change, treble hop back
- Tip change, tip change, treble hop back
- Tip change, tip change, heel step, tip change heel step, tip change, treble hop back

3rd Step of Hornpipe:

- Tip change, tip change, treble hop back
- Heel step (fast), tip change, treble hop back
- Heel step (slow), hit (your heel in back) hop down
- Treble hop back, treble hop toe (in back)
- Hop toe, hop heel, jump in, kick out
- Leap 1, 2, 3, 4
- Jump step (in back), treble hop back
- Stamp step, tip change, treble hop back

Group 1 – Treble Jig

1st Step of Treble Jig:

- Treble change, treble change, treble 1, 2, 3, 4
- Treble hop hit your heel, double treble hop back
- Step step, hop back
- Treble up, treble change toe
- Kick out, hop back
- Treble change, treble hop back

2nd Step of Treble Jig:

- Double treble, hop toe
- Brush point 1, 2, 3, 4
- Brush hop 1, brush hop 2, brush point 1, 2, 3, stamp
- Treble change, treble change, treble hop hit your heel
- Hop back, treble change, double treble hop back

St. Patrick's Day

STEP (Done on the right & left foot):

Treble change, treble change, treble change, treble change
Double treble & hop back
Brush hop 1, cut hop 2, brush hop 3
Hit your heel (in back & put your foot down in back)
Tip change, brush hop heel step
Double treble & hop back
Hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

SET (Done only on the right foot):

Point to the knee & hop back, tip 2,3 tip 2,3
Tip change brush hop heel step, tip 2,3 tip 2,3
Tip change step (in front)
Hit your heel in back & hop down in back
Tip change brush hop heel step
Double treble & hop back
Tip change brush hop heel step
Tip 2,3 tip 2,3
Tip change step (in front)
Hit your heel & hop back rock, rock, rock
Treble change, treble change
Double treble & hop back
Hop back 1, 2, 3, 4

Irish Dance Glossary

TYPES OF DANCES:

Reel – a lively dance performed in soft shoes

Light Jig – a bouncy dance performed in soft shoes

Slip Jig – a graceful, flowing dance performed in soft shoes

Treble Jig – an energetic dance performed in hard shoes

Hornpipe – a catchy, rhythmic dance performed in hard shoes

Treble Reel – performed in hard shoes

Set Dance – a dance performed in hard shoes and choreographed for a specific piece of music (either treble jig or hornpipe tempo); a **traditional set** is a specific dance sequence performed at a specific speed to a specific piece of traditional music

Solo Dances (aka solos) – choreography that is performed individually

Ceili Dances (pronounced KAY-LEE) – dance that is performed in teams

TERMS RELATED TO IRISH DANCE COMPETITIONS:

Feis – (pronounced “FESH”) an Irish word that means festival, but is more commonly used to describe a sanctioned Irish dance competition

Oireachtas – (pronounced “O-ROCK-tus”) an Irish word that means gathering, but within the context of Irish dance refers to the Regional Championships

Midwest Oireachtas – the regional championship competition in which eligible dancers from The Dennehy School of Irish Dance compete; this event is a qualifier for other majors

Majors – championship events with entry restricted to dancers who have qualified for Open Champion level, and/or who have qualified from a prior championship event

North American Irish Dancing Championships (NAIDC) – one of the majors; sometimes referred to as “Nationals” or “North American Nationals” (NANs)

School Dress – the official competition costume for dancers representing the Dennehy School of Irish Dance in solo dance competitions at a feis, and in ceili dancing competitions

Solo Dress / Solo Costume – a unique costume that dancers may wear after earning Novice status

ABBREVIATIONS OFTEN USED FOR COMPETITION LEVELS

Beg – Beginner 1, listed as 200 at a feis

Adv Beg (AB) – Beginner 2, listed as 300 at a feis

Nov (N) – Novice, listed as 400 at a feis

PW – Prizewinner, listed as 500 at a feis

PC – Preliminary Championship, listed as 600 at a feis

OC – Open Championship, listed as 700 at a feis

ACRONYMS FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS:

CLRG – *An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha* – the Irish Dancing Commission based in Dublin

TCRG – a teaching certificate awarded by CLRG to candidates who have shown a competence in teaching the ceili dances as described in *Ar Rince Foirne* and have also shown a competence in teaching solo dancers

ADCRG – a certificate awarded by CLRG to candidates who already hold TCRG certification and have shown a competence in adjudicating (judging) at official competitions

IDTANA – Irish Dance Teachers Association of North America