

# *Fitzpatrick Academy of Irish Dance*



\* Whitestone, NY \* Middle Village, NY \* Woodside, NY \*

## *Fitzpatrick Academy Information and Policies*

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Fitzpatrick Academy of Irish Dance! This school year marks another milestone as we will enter our 10th year in March 2020! It's been a privilege to promote Irish Culture and Dance in New York and I look forward to what the future holds.

Included in this packet is information regarding Fitzpatrick Academy classes, tuition, and registration. If you have any other questions or concerns, please let me know. I look forward to working with you and your children to make this a very successful and enjoyable year!

### *General Information*

- A majority of Fitzpatrick Academy updates will be made via email, Facebook and the school website, [www.fitzpatrickacademy.com](http://www.fitzpatrickacademy.com), so please check them regularly.
- There will be, on occasion, days where class times will change or classes will be cancelled and rescheduled in advance. If a class is cancelled due to inclement weather or illness, you will be notified at least 2 hours prior to class time. Should there be delays due to traffic/emergency, you will be notified via text message.
- Occasionally, there will be Fitzpatrick Academy Parent meetings. During these meetings, questions or concerns will be addressed and parents will be informed of news and information regarding the school. Meetings will be scheduled 2 weeks in advance. All parents are welcome to attend; parent meetings will be mandatory for those whose children compete (or will be competing) in competitions.
- The Fitzpatrick Academy reserves the right to cancel or combine any class.
- Email is the best way to contact Kelly. Please allow for 24-72 hours for a response. If your situation requires further conversation, please email a brief description of the issue at hand to arrange a phone call or meeting. Text messages will be treated as emails; please be advised that text messages will not be responded to after 9PM or before 9AM.

### *Tuition Info*

- Payments can be made on a monthly or trimonthly basis. Weekly payments will not be accepted.
- There is an annual registration fee of \$35 (per family). The fee is due by **December 3**.
- If a lesson is missed by a student without notice, the class will not be refunded. If there is notice given for the missed class, your dancer can makeup their class another day in a class at a comparable level.
- Payment for the month of classes is due your first class of the month. For instance, if your dancer's first class of the week is on Tuesday, then tuition is due the first Tuesday class of the month. **LATE FEES:** There will be a 7 day grace period (from your tuition due date) before a **10% late fee will be accessed.**
- If private lessons are booked and paid for at the beginning of the month for the entire month you will save \$5.
- Please inquire about payment plans.

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## *Class Info*

- Attendance: There is a direct correlation between consistent attendance and improving in class. Students are strongly encouraged to come to class every week and are asked to arrive on time.
  - \*\*\*If you know your child will not be in class ahead of time, please contact Kelly via email ASAP\*\*\*
    - Your dancer can makeup their class another day in a class at a comparable level.
    - Please notify us via email if you know your dancer will not make class.
    - It is goal of the class to begin warm ups at the designated class time. Please drop your child 10-15 minutes before their class time to change, put on their shoes, etc.
- Practice: ALL students, whether they dance for recreation or competition, are expected to practice. Classes are run mainly on how well your child knows the steps and the material; students may be held back while others move up a level and it's all based on class attendance and practice.
- Private Lessons: Attending private lessons will allow your child one-on-one time to perfect steps, work on technique and problem areas. It can be a way to get that extra practice they may need/want, especially leading into a competition. During privates, steps can be customized to your child's strengths; Exercises and drills may also be applied. Students are welcome to take private lessons as frequently as once or twice a week or as little as once every few months. Privates are open to students at ALL levels. Parents are allowed to sit-in on your child's private lesson. Please refrain from commenting on your child's dancing as it undermines the knowledge and authority of the teacher. Parents who disregard this request or become a distraction for their child will be asked to leave the room. Please leave any and all questions to the last five minutes of the private.
- Parents are not permitted to view our classes. Please respect that not all children are comfortable being viewed and parents may be a distraction for our younger students. Students who arrive early for class are asked to wait outside the room until a teacher opens the door.
- Parents are asked to refrain from initiating conversation with the teachers in between classes. All classes are scheduled back-to-back, with no breaks in between. Our time with your dancers is limited and precious; all dancers deserve to have the best possible training which includes a full, uninterrupted class. We are asking all parents to respect this policy and we appreciate your cooperation. If there is a dire situation in which you need to speak to a teacher, please contact Kelly prior to the class so she can make the necessary arrangements. Parents are also welcome to email during non-class hours.
- Shoes & Attire: Dancers must wear the appropriate shoes (soft shoes and heavy/hard shoes) to class. Beginners: socks or ballet/jazz shoes are acceptable. For inquiries for Irish Dance shoes, please email Kelly for details. Appropriate attire includes tee shirts, tank tops, shorts or fitted leggings. Please refrain from wearing baggy pants, denim or constricting forms of clothing.
- Dance Outs (Shows): Students from time to time, may be asked to perform/appear in local shows, parades, etc., especially during the St. Patrick's Day season. Students ARE allowed to perform separately from the school (i.e. neighborhood parties, school talent shows); **all we ask is to be notified prior to the performance.** \*Students will not be allowed to book shows without the permission of the Academy.\*

Looking forward to a great year!  
Kelly Fitzpatrick, TCRG