

# Student Packet 2010-2011



For a more information visit us online at [www.mcgrathacademy.com](http://www.mcgrathacademy.com)

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**C**éad Míle Fáilte! Welcome to The Patrick McGrath Academy of Irish Dance, offering solo soft shoe, solo hard shoe and figure dancing lessons to students ages 5 to Adult. Dancers of PMA develop confidence, rhythm, pride and an appreciation for both Irish Music and Dance in an enjoyable learning environment with their peers.

Our Academy provides opportunities for dancers to share what they've learned by performing in festivals, fundraisers, holiday events and parades, additionally PMA students are eligible to compete locally, nationally and globally. Trained with what they'll need to enter an Irish Dance competition (called a Feis, pronounced "fesh"), the option to attend any Feiseanna world-wide is always available, providing a structured, goal-driven environment wherein dancers can assess their progress over the years.

Parents and students should visit our website frequently for updates, events, apparel, and fun Irish dance links. If you are new to our Academy, feel free to ask questions of the instructors or other parents whenever possible.

Thank you for your interest in the Patrick McGrath Academy, we hope you have an exciting year!

**We will begin September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and continue for 38 weeks of class through June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**Summer Lessons & tuition costs shall be posted in May.**

## Description of Irish Dance Levels

*(A Basic description) followed by an Official N.A.F.C. description*

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### **I - Beginner** *(First year student)*

A beginner is a competitor who has not taken a full year of Irish Dance lessons, thereby giving beginners a full year with such status. A Beginner must move into the Advanced Beginner category the next year.

### **II - Advanced Beginner** *(Second year student or a beginner hard shoe dancer)*

An advanced beginner who wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance.

### **III - Novice** *(An Intermediate dancer, with general knowledge of hard and soft shoe dances)*

A novice who wins a 1st place in a dance will advance to the Prizewinner category in that particular dance.

### **IV - Prizewinner** *(A high level dancer with strong knowledge of hard shoe, soft shoe and figure dances)*

A competitor who does not qualify as a beginner, advanced beginner or novice dancer.

### **V - Preliminary Champion** *(A very advanced dancer with knowledge of most Irish dances and movements)*

Has placed 1st in both a Prizewinner light and heavy shoe competition, and has never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Open Championship.

### **VI - Open Champion** *(The highest grade level an Irish dancer can achieve)*

Dancers must qualify for Open Championship via the method now in place for Preliminary Championship, i.e. two 1st place wins. Dancers must compete in the Preliminary Championship competition in order to qualify for Open Championship. A dancer who wins two First Place Preliminary Championship awards in one calendar year will move on to Open Championship the following year (as of Jan 1); if the second first-place win does not occur within the same Feis year as the first win, as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, the dancer must move up to Open Championship level immediately.

# Policies and Procedures

## Class Attire

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We do require that students wear a school t-shirt and black shorts for practice and learning. Students with long hair are expected to keep it neatly pulled away from the face and eyes. All students are expected to purchase and wear authentic Irish dance soft and/or hard shoes within the third week of class. Bloch, Capezio and other dance shoes or sneakers are not allowed unless prior permission is given by your instructor and generally only for medical conditions.

## Attendance Requirements

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We follow the Stafford County Public Schools Calendar for holidays and closings. A minimum attendance standard is required, should a student miss three or more classes in any quarter, we reserve the right to remove the privilege to compete and perform. Two or more sequential classes missed without notice may result in termination of lessons, re-registration may be required should this occur.

## Emergency Closings

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We will typically follow the inclement weather policy of Stafford County Public School System. For example, if Stafford County Schools close early or are closed all day due to snow, ice, etc., classes in Stafford County will most likely also be closed to provide maximum safety for your children. For questionable situations, please visit our website at [www.mcgrathacademy.com](http://www.mcgrathacademy.com) and check the home page for an EMERGENCY CLOSINGS bulletin. If schools open one to two hours late, our evening classes will take place as scheduled. For weekend classes, please check the website or call 571-969-5336. Please understand these are situations over which we have no control and we are not able to make up these classes.

## Winter Showcase & Spring Fling

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We typically hold two Annual Academy events, the Winter Showcase on in January and the Spring Feis in May/June. All students will have a chance to show off their skills by perform their steps, figures, céilís or personal choreographies along with their fellow classmates. The Winter Showcase is a fun holiday themed presentation of dances to friends and family, with food snacks and raffles baskets to be given away for Christmas! Our Spring Fling is a very similar end of the Year event Open to the public. SIDA, our parent association will hold fundraisers throughout the year to provide food, drinks, fundraisers and performance opportunities.

## SIDA – Shamrock Irish Dance Association

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SIDA is our Parent Booster group comprised of volunteer adults from the Patrick McGrath Academy. In its first year, SIDA raised nearly \$1000 through fundraisers, raffles and PMA performance bookings. Members of SIDA provide invaluable help with Academy events such as our Annual Winter Showcase & Spring Feis. Monthly meetings offer SIDA members a behind the scenes look at look at our Academy with Q&A opportunities with your instructor and veteran Irish dance parents in a relaxed, fun atmosphere! SIDA membership is optional, but does require a modest membership fee of \$20 per year.

Please print, fill out and return both pages to register.



# Registration 2011-2012

## Student(s) Information

_____	_____	____/____/____	YS YM YL YXL AS AM AL - # _____
First name	Last name	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Tee \$18 (circle one & list # amount)
_____	_____	____/____/____	YS YM YL YXL AS AM AL - # _____
First name	Last name	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Tee \$18 (circle one & list # amount)
_____	_____	____/____/____	YS YM YL YXL AS AM AL - # _____
First name	Last name	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Tee \$18 (circle one & list # amount)
_____	_____	_____	_____
Street Address	City & State	Zip Code	
_____	_____	_____	
Email Address	(primary contact is via e-mail)	Primary Phone #	

## Parent or Guardian Information

_____	_____	_____	_____
First name	Last name	Primary Phone # (list type)	Other # (list type)
_____	_____	_____	_____
First name	Last name	Primary Phone # (list type)	Other # (list type)

## Emergency Contact Information *(other than a Parent or Guardian)*

_____	_____	_____	_____
First name	Last name	Relationship	Emergency Contact Phone #

Student's First Name (If multiple)	Class Location	Day and time	Location

## CONSENT OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

We appreciate the confidence expressed in your decision to enroll your children with our Academy. We take our responsibility seriously and will provide the highest quality learning experience possible. To ensure your child's safety and enjoyment, we would appreciate knowing any medical problem or learning disability, which may affect his or her participation. Please contact the director for a confidential discussion. I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a minor child, does hereby consent to the participation of said minor child in the activity, subject to the Rules and regulations, a copy of which has been provided to me. I am aware that any physical activity should be undertaken ONLY after consultation with a physician and I assume responsibility for my child doing so. I have advised the Academy in writing of any limitations necessitated by my child's activities due to medical or physical conditions. I hereby hold Patrick McGrath Academy and its affiliates harmless for any cost, claim, injury, damage, or liability incurred at the facility except due to the negligence of its agents or employees. I have received, read and fully understand the Academies Policies and Procedures for 2011-2012.

_____	_____
Signature	Date

# Policies and Procedures 2011-2012

<b>Total Class Time</b> Add the total number of class hours per week for your entire family to calculate your Monthly or Quarterly tuition payment.	<b>Monthly Tuition</b>	<b>Quarterly Tuition (Discounted Rate)</b>
1 Hour	\$100.00	\$265.00
1 Hour 30 minutes	\$135.00	\$345.00
2 Hours	\$160.00	\$410.00
2 Hours 30 minutes	\$180.00	\$460.00
3 Hours	\$205.00	\$525.00
3 Hours 30 minutes	\$225.00	\$575.00
4 Hours	\$245.00	\$625.00
4 Hours 30 minutes	\$265.00	\$675.00
5 Hours	\$280.00	\$715.00
Unlimited ( Large Family Plan )	\$300.00	\$765.00

**TUITION** is a Monthly OR Quarterly fee, based on 36 classes or lessons per year (September through June), payable in advance of classes. **Monthly tuition is due on the 1st of each month** in 10 installments beginning September 1st. **Quarterly tuition (optional payment method) is due on September 1st, December 1st and March 1st.** Tuition is NOT based on a certain number of classes per month or quarter. Tuition is to be paid by Check, checks should be made payable to "Patrick McGrath Academy". Registration is confirmed only upon receipt of payment. Failure to provide payment on time will result in an additional \$15.00 late fee. Bills will not be sent. All NSF checks and will be automatically charged a \$35.00 service fee. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Registration Fee:** of **\$45.00 per student** is due at the time of registration. Registration fees are non-refundable. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Performance Agreement:** Performance is a vital aspect to a quality fine arts education. Our performance will allow students to demonstrate the tremendous amount of hard work and dedication they have exerted throughout the year. Performance attire is mandatory in order to participate. Workshop attendance is mandatory for our Winter Showcase & Spring Feis in order to participate. We will participate in Christmas and St. Patrick's Day parades during December and March. Participation is optional however, highly encouraged. Students enrolling after January 1, 2012 must obtain permission from the director to participate in the Spring Feis. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Attendance and Tardiness:** We reserve the right to ask students to observe class when arriving more than 10 minutes late. Repeated tardiness may result in termination of classes. A minimum attendance standard will be required. If a student misses more than 4 classes without written notice, we reserve the right to terminate lessons. Students missing more than 3 classes after January may not be permitted to participate in the Spring Feis. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Class Cancellations:** We reserve the right to cancel any class not meeting minimum enrollment requirements. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Class Attire:** Is strictly enforced beginning the third week of classes. To provide the most professional experience for your children, we strictly enforce the attire of our dancers. Proper dress and shoes will prevent physical obstruction in dance class. Standard studio attire is listed in the Student Packet. All students must have proper shoes and long hair must be worn off the neck and away from the face. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Care of Students:** We are not responsible for providing before or after class care for students. Parents with students under the age of 5 must remain in the studio during the classes. Students are not to be left at the school for excessive periods before or after their classes. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Make-up Classes:** are offered generously if classes are missed due to illness and if a 24-hour notice has been given to the office. Make-up lessons will be limited to 3 per teaching year. No refunds will be given for missed classes. (School activities such as field trips, Spring Breaks, sports games, etc do not qualify for make-up classes). Make-up classes after April 1, 2012 will only be allowed with permission of the teacher/director. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Schedule Changes:** You may make a change to your class schedule through October 30, 2011. After October 30, 2011, there will be a \$10.00 schedule change service charge for each scheduling change you make. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Withdrawals:** There is a two-month minimum enrollment requirement for all classes. A one-month notice from the first of the month is required to withdrawal from any classes. You will be responsible for tuition payment during the one-month notice period. Withdrawal must be done in person and will not be accepted electronically or over the phone. All withdrawals must be done at the studio with the Director. Withdrawal must occur within the first 7 days of the month. A two-week notice is required to withdrawal for any private lesson. No class withdrawals will be accepted after January 1, 2012. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

You will continue to be responsible for tuition payment and any other fees associated with your enrollment until proper withdrawal procedures are completed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date