

FAQ FOR NEW DANCERS



WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS?

There are no major requirements to start highland dance classes. The dress requirements are a black body suit, white knee socks and black gymnastic shoes. Black shorts can be worn over top the bodysuit for older dancers. Boys can wear black shorts and a white t-shirt.

DO I NEED TO PURCHASE PROPER HIGHLAND DANCES SHOES OR A KILT?

Highland dance shoes are not required to start lessons. Kilts are also not required and part of the registration fee includes use of studio owned tartan skirts for performances, shows and medal tests.

WHAT EVENTS IS MY CHILD ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN?

Every child in the studio will be able to participate in the studio Christmas party, fundraisers, summer picnic, performances at various community and local events, medal tests (where dancers will receive a medal and certificate from Scotland upon successful completion of required dances), and the annual recital.

ARE PARENTS ABLE TO SIT IN DURING THE LESSONS?

Due to space limitations and a distraction for the dancers, parents are unable to sit in and watch during the lessons. There will be 2 open house sessions per year for all parents to come in and watch. For the Tartan Tot program (ages 3-4) one parent is allowed to stay during the lesson. Siblings are not allowed to stay during the Tartan Tot program.

AT WHAT AGE DO YOU RECOMMEND TO START LESSONS?

Any age after age 3 is recommended to start highland dance lessons. The Tartan Tot program is a program designed for young dancers (ages 3-4 years of age) and is a pre-dance program which incorporates Scottish music, rhythm, hops, skips, bow, basic positions, etc.

WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED?

All classes are taught traditional Scottish highland dances. The Tartan Tot program is a pre-dance program for young dancers (ages 3-4 years of age) and incorporates Scottish music into the movements for these young dancers. The recreational program is designed to give children the opportunity to try something different, meet new friends and have fun! Dancers at any age can join the recreational program. In the competitive program dancers are expected to attend two lessons per week and can attend a variety of highland dance competitions held throughout the year.

WHERE ARE THE LESSONS LOCATED?

The studio is located in Pickering, close to Liverpool and Finch Ave. There is ample free parking available close to the studio. The dance studio consists of a sprung dance floor, bars, mirrors, air conditioning and a waiting area. There is a separate entrance into the studio as well as washroom facilities available.

WHAT IS THE COST OF LESSONS?

Tartan Tot Classes (ages 3-4) are \$7 per 30 minute lesson

Primary Classes (ages 4-7) are \$9 per 45 minute lesson

Beginner Classes (ages 7 and up) are \$9 per 45 minute lesson

Competitive Beginner to Premier Classes are \$11 per 60 minute lesson

Please inquire about family discounts.

HOW ARE THE FEES PAID?

The fees are paid in 3 sessions by post-dated cheques dated Sept 1st, Dec 1st, and March 1st. Each session includes 3 months of lessons. These cheques are required the first lesson and should be payable to Laura McGrath.

IS THERE A REGISTRATION FEE?

Yes there is a one time \$20 (\$25 for families with more than one dancer) registration fee. The fee confirms your spot in the class and gives you use of the studio tartan skirts for performances and medal tests.

WHAT CLASS WOULD MY CHILD BE REGISTERED IN?

The following are the class times for all new dancers. Experienced dancers will be put into a class currently running suitable for their age and dancing ability.

TUESDAY	5:45-6:30 p.m.	NEW PRIMARY (4-7 YEARS) - \$9
THURSDAY	4:30-5:00 p.m.	NEW TARTAN TOTS (3-4 YEARS) - \$7
THURSDAY	5:00-5:45 p.m.	NEW BEGINNER (7 YEARS AND UP) - \$9

WHEN DO THE LESSONS START?

Lessons start the week of September 13th. Lessons end the last week of May. There are NO lessons during Christmas break and March break.

HOW DO I GO ABOUT REGISTERING MY CHILD FOR THE LESSONS?

You can download the registration form from the website at www.mcgrathhighlanddancers.ca on the main home page. Once the registration form is received your child will be registered and additional information will be sent out for the first lesson.

If you require any other info, please do not hesitate to contact me, Laura McGrath, Studio Teacher 905-831-9676, or info@mcgrathhighlanddancers.ca