

Rinceorí Na Sléibhte *(Dancers of the Mountains)*



Missoula Irish Dancers
Uniform Handbook
2019-2020

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Overview

Rinceorí Na Sléibhte (Dancers of the Mountains), more commonly known as the Missoula Irish Dancers, is a performance based Irish Dance group. Dancers in Rinceorí Na Sléibhte perform regularly at our annual Holiday Performance, Celtic Festivals, schools, and nursing homes in the Missoula community and the surrounding areas. In doing so, we are able share this traditional aspect of the Irish culture with the public, and teach traditional Irish step dancing to new generations of dancers and performers.

When participating in performances, all dancers are required to wear the uniform, or “MID School Dress,” that is specific to their class and level. (School Dress referring to the state of dress in general, and not a dress specifically.) Dancers are also expected to wear Irish dance shoes during performances and during practice. Occasionally we will have performances during which official “School Dress” is not required, in which case dancers and their families will be notified prior to the performance.

During performance, female dancers should have their hair curled and should wear subtle but flattering stage make-up. Jewelry, particularly necklaces, watches, and big earrings, are not appropriate for performances and should not be worn.

Dancers should remember that while wearing their uniforms they represent the school, and should behave in a way that reflects our standards and ideals. When on-stage they should perform to the best ability, smile, and have fun! While back-stage, they should remain quiet and polite, listen to backstage helpers and instructors, and watch the other performers with respect.

School Dress Requirements

School Dress Requirements by Level

The following overview provides information on what dancers in each level should wear during each performance. Additional information about each aspect of the uniform is provided in following sections.

<p>Blaze and Castle Mountain (Girls):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black short sleeve leotard • Eggplant Practice Skirt • Eggplant bloomers • Hair Clip (Provided by IDA) • White Poodle Socks • Ghillies 	<p>Blaze and Castle Mountain (Boys):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Dress Shirt (collared, button up front, no pockets) • Black Slacks (flat front, no crease) • Black Socks • Reel Shoes
<p>Fortress Mountain (Girls):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggplant paneled skirt (provided by IDA) • Black short sleeve leotard • Eggplant bloomers • Poodle Socks • Ghillies • Hard Shoes (as determined by teacher) • Headband (Provided by IDA) 	<p>Mystic Mountain (Girls):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggplant paneled skirt (provided by IDA) • Black sleeveless mock turtleneck leotard • Eggplant bloomers • Poodle Socks • Ghillies • Hard Shoes • Headband (Provided by IDA)
<p>Storm & Thunder Mountain (Girls):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggplant paneled skirt (provided by IDA) • Black sleeveless mock turtleneck leotard • Eggplant bloomers • Poodle Socks • Ghillies • Hard Shoes • Headband (Provided by IDA) 	<p>Wolf & Thunder Mountain (Girls):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggplant paneled skirt and Sash (provided by IDA;) • Black sleeveless mock turtleneck leotard • Eggplant bloomers • Poodle Socks • Ghillies • Hard Shoes • Headband (Provided by IDA)
<p>Fortress - Wolf Mountain Dancers (Boys):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vest (provided by IDA) • White Dress Shirt (collared, button up front, no pockets) • Black Slacks (flat front, no crease) • Black Socks • Reel Shoes or Black Jazz Shoes • Hard Shoes (as determined by teacher) 	

MID Issued Uniforms

The Irish Dance Association (IDA) provides dancers with specific items needed as part of their school dress for a nominal fee. These include skirts for our Fortress, Mystic, Storm, and Thunder Mountain dancers; capes for our Wolf Mountain dancers; and vests for our male dancers.

Female dancers also receive a hair bow (for Blaze and Castle Mountain dancers) or headbands.

The fact that the IDA rents these items to the dancers instead of making each family purchase these items individual is fairly unique. Most Irish Dance schools require parents to purchase these items individually, either directly through the dressmaker, or as part of a uniform exchange (during which specific items in needed sizes may not be available). This can be very costly to families as Irish Dance skirts range from \$125 - \$300, and dresses generally cost around \$600.

Uniforms are rented out to the dancers in the Fall. Parents are required to fill out a *Rental Contract* and a *Rental Evaluation Form* and provide a deposit for the uniforms.

Uniforms are then the dancer's family's responsibility until they are returned the following Fall. Dancers and their families are expected to clean and care for these uniforms in a way that they can be used by other dancers in future years.

Non-IDA Issued Items

Dance families are expected to provide specific aspects of their dancer's uniform, including:

- Gillies
- Hard shoes
- Poodle socks
- Leotards
- Bloomers
- Practice/Parade pull-on skirts
- Black slacks (male only)
- Black dress shirt (male only)
- Black socks (male only)

Many of these items can be purchased in the fall using the online *MID Group Order Form* for a discount and/or shared shipping costs. Information on group order deadlines and a link to the on-line order form is sent to families via email.

If you prefer to purchase any of these items individually, please refer to the supplier list below:

[FrenchToast.com](#)

- Black Slacks

[DiscountDance.com](#)

- Black short sleeve leotard
- Eggplant bloomers
- Eggplant pull-on skirt
- Reel Shoes or Black Jazz Shoes

[DancewearSolutions.com](#)

- Black sleeveless mock turtleneck leotard
- Reel Shoes or Black Jazz Shoes

Reelshoes.com

- Poodle Socks
- Ghillies
- Hard Shoes

*Use the coupon code “LOCAL406” when ordering from reelshoes.com for a 10% at any time.

keilys.com

- Poodle Socks
- Ghillies
- Hard Shoes

*Use the coupon code “missoula” when ordering from keilys.com for a 10% at any time.

irishwigs.com

- Wigs (Lexy Wig most commonly worn by MID dancers)

Uniform Exchange

Families may also purchase items during our annual Uniform Exchange. This swap-meet style event allows families to sell items their dancers have out grown, and purchase used items at a lower cost. Information about the Uniform Exchange is sent out via email prior to the event. This generally takes place before the Group Order deadline.

MID-Wear

T-shirts and sweatshirts with the Rinceorí Na Sléibhte logo are available for purchase periodically throughout the year. Dancers are not required to have “MID-Wear.” Many dancers and parents choose to purchase these items because they are fun and promote school spirit, but they are optional purchases.

Information on ordering sweatshirts and t-shirts will be sent out via email.

Shoes

General Information

Dancers are expected to practice and perform in the appropriate shoes. Female dancers of all levels should have a pair of well-fitted ghillies, and older dancers who have tested into hard shoes should have a pair of broken in hard shoes. Male dancers should have a pair of lace-up jazz shoes while in Blaze and Castle Mountain, reel shoes in the more advance levels, and a pair of hard shoes after testing into hard shoe.

The lifespan of dance shoes is different for each individual dancer. The more they are worn, the faster the dancer will go through them. When practicing, it always best to wear dance shoes so that the dancer's feet get used to them. It is extremely important that dance shoes are comfortable for performances, especially for the St. Patrick's Day school tour. Growing dancers will probably need a new pair of dance shoes every year. However, depending on how much they are worn and used for practiced, dancers may need to purchase shoes two or more times in a single year. In the dance world, it is common to go through several pairs of dance shoes in a single year.

Irish dance shoes of any variety should not be worn outside except on suitable dancing surfaces.

Types of Shoes

Irish dancers require specialized dance shoes that are specific to the art form. These vary based on the type of dance being performed.

Ghillies



Ghillies – worn only by girls – are often called soft shoes, light shoes, or pumps. They are constructed of very soft leather, similar to ballet shoes in texture. Their laces crisscross across the top of the feet and are tied on the top of the foot. Lacing ghillies can be tricky initially. We encourage dancers to ask an instructor or older dancer to help as they first become familiar with the process. There are also a number of tutorials on YouTube that describe the process.

Beginner vs. Advanced Ghillies

We recommend that dancers do not purchase split sole ghillies until reaching the Storm Mountain level, or with instructor approval. Split Sole ghillies, which are designed to naturally emphasize the dancer's arch, are appropriate for Storm Mountain, Thunder Mountain and Wolf Mountain dancers.

Hard Shoes



Hard shoes are similar to tap shoes and are worn by both male and female dancers. They are, however, much bulkier than tap shoes as the toes and heels are made of fiberglass. Hard shoes are used when dancing hornpipes, treble jigs, and hard reels. Dancers should tape the heel and toe of the shoe with black duct tape to prevent slipping.

Our dancers are required to pass a hard shoe test prior to wearing hard shoes. Dancers typically take this test and earn hard shoes in the Fortress Mountain level.

Beginner vs. Advanced Hard Shoes

There are a number of hard shoes choices on the market; however, there are some that are more appropriate to beginner hard shoe dancers, and some that are designed for more advanced dancers. Please talk to the instructor and/or the shoe distributor about style of shoe prior to purchase. ***Do not purchase suede sole hard shoes until the dancer has had at least two years of hard shoe experience, or with instructor approval.***

Boy's Jazz Shoes



Boy's jazz shoes aren't require for beginner boys, but we do prefer that they have this style of "lace-up" dance shoes. These shoes have a split-sole design for flexibility and articulation. There are a number of online dance supply companies that sell black jazz shoes for boys, including:

- www.dancewearsolutions.com
- www.discountdance.com
- www.dancesupplies.com
- www.capezio.com

Men and Boy's Reel Shoes



Men's Reel shoes are a soft shoe male Irish dancers wear in the Fortress - Wolf levels. They look much like jazz shoes and aren't required until reaching the Fortress level. They come in black leather and have hard heels for making "click" sounds. Unlike ghillies, reel shoes have very flexible soles that enable male Irish dancers to produce sounds such as trebles and rallies in their soft shoe dances.

Purchasing Shoes

Depending on a dancers' level, the type of shoe (ghillies or hard shoe) and the brand of shoe, Irish dance shoes can range in price from \$35 - \$185. Dancers do not need the most expensive dance shoes, so families should select the brand and price they feel most comfortable with. Feel free to talk with the instructors about shoe recommendations, or call the store and speak with one of their specialists.

The owner of reelshoes.com, Cara Shea, lives in Missoula and has a daughter dancing with MID. She is a great resource, and invites dancers to try on multiple styles and sizes to find the correct fit.

There are several different brands of Irish dance shoes available online. Some of the popular online Irish dance supply stores include:

- www.reelshoes.com (*use coupon code 406LOCAL for a 10% school discount)
- www.keilys.com (*use coupon code "missoula" for a 10% school discount)
- www.rutherfordshoes.com
- www.fayshoes.com
- www.corririshshoes.com
- www.atkinsonirishproducts.com
- www.irishdanceshop.com

Used shoes may also be purchased during the annual Uniform Exchange.

Size

Depending on the brand, Irish shoe sizes generally run about 1.5 – 2 sizes smaller than American shoes. Irish dance shoes are supposed to fit snugly with no extra space in the toe area. They usually stretch about 1 full size once broken in.

For dancers who are no longer growing, **we recommend to buying dance shoes a full size smaller than your usual shoe size.** They are quite uncomfortable when brand new but will eventually mold to the dancer's foot for a custom fit.

- For young dancers who are still growing, **we recommended buying dance shoes that are only about a half size too big at the most.**
- For young dancers who are rapidly growing, it is best to **only go up about 1.5 sizes max** from their current size.

When wearing ghillies or reel shoes, a good way to test how well your shoe fits is to lace them properly and point your toes. If you see a gap at the tip of your toes when pointing, then the shoe is too big. When the shoe is too big the dancer's foot does not look as strong and accentuated.

Hard shoes, even the right size, may feel heavy and awkward at first. If they are the right size, your big toe should be close to touching the end of the shoe, with just a bit of room in front of the little toes. There should be no gapping in the leather around the heel, and the heel should not slide up and down when you walk.

While it is tempting to purchase shoes that are a little large to leave room for the dancer to grow into them, there are a number of disadvantages associated with wearing shoes that are 1.5 sizes or more too big. When shoes are too big, dancers frequently trip over the toes of their shoes. Generally the dance shoes will be broken in incorrectly and in the wrong areas, which can result in improper technique. The dance shoes themselves are often too beat-up and improperly broken-in for the dancer to wear once he/she finally does grow into them. And because of the improper wear and the fact that they are broken-in incorrectly, it is often difficult to sell them to another dancer. We encourage all dancers to wear shoes that are the correct size.

Breaking in New Dance Shoes

Unfortunately, breaking in new dance shoes, especially hard shoes can be a painful and tortuous process. Lots of Band-Aids and tape are often necessary. It is extremely important that your dance shoes mold properly to your feet so that they are comfortable for classes and performances.

We recommend the following strategies for breaking in any dance shoes:

- Practice, practice, practice
- Wear them outside of class
- Wear them around the house as if they were your normal shoes

Soft shoes are easier to break in than hard shoes, but your feet may still be sore after the first few practices of wearing them.

Breaking in Hard Shoes

Breaking in hard shoes can be much more involved, and is often a very unpleasant process. They must be worn A LOT in order to speed up the break in process so that you can actually dance in them without getting blisters. We recommend the following strategies for breaking in hard shoes:

- Wear them outside of class
- Wear them around the house as if they were your normal shoes
- Stock up on Band-Aids and medical tape to help with blisters when shoes are new

- Consider investing in Blister Booties, available at <http://www.rutherfordshoes.com> and other Irish dance shoe vendors.
- Avoid concrete - Dancing on concrete can cause shin splints, hurt your ankles, and wear down the tips of your shoes
- Do not attempt to do toe-stands without the approval and instruction of an instructor
- When at home, practice your steps to the appropriate music to develop an understanding of hard shoe rhythm
- It may seem extra hard to stay up on your toes with feet crossed and toes pointed out when using hard shoes, but the rules still apply

Several break-in methods can be found online via Google or YouTube. You can use whatever method works for you. If you are unsure, ask an instructor to point out which areas of the shoe should and shouldn't be manipulated.

Other ideas include folding them in half and holding them in place with a rubber-band, manipulating them with your hands, or rubbing Hot Glove (a baseball glove conditioner) or baby oil directly into the shoe. Please remember to be careful when trying any of these methods if you have not used them before.

Some styles of shoes require more breaking in, and some require less. When purchasing your shoes, it is often a good idea to talk with the instructor or supplier about the stiffness of the shoe and the breaking-in process.

Socks

Female dancers should wear white poodle socks when performing. Socks should be clean and in good condition during performances. Poodle socks are not required during practice, although many dancers choose to wear an old pair of poodle socks to class while reserving a fresh white pair exclusively for performance.

Male dancers should wear black socks during performances. Tube socks or calf socks are preferable, as they don't show the dancer's ankle when dancing.

Hair

Female dancers should have curled hair during most performances. Some dancers choose to wear a wig. Others curl their hair. This can be achieved through a variety of ways - rag curlers, spiral curlers, foam curlers, or a thin barrel curling iron. Regardless of the method you use, curls should be broken up slightly after removing the curler.

Most dancers find that it is best to use product - and a lot of it! - prior to putting their hair in curlers. Because everyone's hair responds differently to different products, experiment before the performance to make sure your dancer's curls "hold."

Blaze and Castle Mountain dancers should pull the front section of their hair back towards the crown of the head and fasten it with a clear elastic prior to putting the hair bow in place as the clip of the hair bow will slide out while dancing otherwise.

Fortress - Wolf Mountain dancers should pull their hair back with the provided headband. Combs may be sewn onto the headband to help secure it in place if needed. Dancers may also find bobby pins help secure the headband. We encourage dancers to dance with the headband in place prior to the performance to make sure it is secure so that it doesn't fall off on stage.

Male dancers may style their hair as usual.

Makeup

Female dancers should wear make-up when performing. However, makeup should be subtle, age-appropriate, and stage-appropriate. The idea is to enhance one's natural features and help them stand out while on stage. The trend of extreme or heavy makeup while performing should be avoided.

Dancers who compete at feisiannas should be aware that makeup is not allowed for dancers 11 and under.

Jewelry

Dancers should refrain from wearing jewelry while performing. Necklaces, watches, and big earrings are not appropriate for performances and should not be worn as they bounce while dancing and form a distraction, both for the dancer and the audience.

Rental Fees

Uniforms are rented out to dancers in the Fall. A rental fee is required and will be held by the IDA for each rented uniform. The entire yearly rental fee applies regardless of when during the year you rent your uniform.

A portion of your rental fee is non-refundable. This portion is used for uniform maintenance, alterations, repairs, replacement costs after years of wear, etc.

The refundable portion of your deposit will be refunded to the dance family or rolled forward to the next year's rental – your choice – when you return your uniform by the end of the rental period. If it is not clean and in good condition, the refundable portion will be retained to cover the cost of caring for the uniform.

Uniforms	Rental Fee	Non-Refundable Deposit Fee	Total Refund (If returned in proper condition)	Purchase Fee
Novice I Skirts	\$40	\$15	\$20	\$125
Vests	\$45	\$20	\$20	\$160
Novice II Skirts	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$275
Pre-Advanced Skirts	\$55	\$30	\$20	\$300
Skirt and Cape	\$60	\$30	\$30	\$275 Skirt \$40 Sash
Dresses	\$60	\$35	\$20	\$500 (old style) \$600 (new style)
Capes	\$10/Feis	-	-	\$40

Anticipated Uniform Expenses

The cost of renting your uniform will vary from year to year based upon the dancer's needs. The following chart provides an *estimate* of expenses, assuming a dancer needed all new items every year. However, this information should help families budget for uniform expenses.

All costs are estimates based on current prices for group order items (shirts, leotards, etc.). Shoe costs are estimates for an average priced shoe. Many of these items can be purchased used for discounted prices at our annual Uniform Exchange, which significantly reduces the annual cost.

Anticipated Uniform Expenses

	Castle/ Blaze Mountain	Fortress Mountain	Mystic Mountain	Storm Mountain	Thunder Mountain	Wolf Mountain	Advanced Male
MID Issued Uniform	-	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$45.00
Black Slacks	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$17.00
Black Shirt	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$20.00
Leotard	\$10.50	\$10.50	\$16.95	\$16.95	\$18.95	\$18.95	-
Practice Skirt	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	
Bloomers	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	-
Poodle Socks	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	-
Ghillies/ Reel Shoes	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$85.00
Hard Shoes	-	-	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$130.00
Expenses	\$81.50	\$121.50	\$222.95	\$232.95	\$276.95	\$281.95	\$297.00
Minus Refundable Deposit	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Total Expenses	\$76.50	\$101.50	\$202.95	\$212.95	\$256.95	\$261.95	\$277.00

Optional Uniform/MID-Wear Expenses

MID-wear (t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats with the Rinceorí Na Sléibhte logo) is not required for our dancers; nor is the practice/parade skirt (the simple, lightweight, machine washable skirt frequently used for parades, informal performances, and as an easy slip-on between festival performances). Because many dancers want these items, the following information may help families budget for these optional items.

All costs are estimates, and are subject to change based on supplier costs.

- MID Sweatshirt: \$25.00
- MID Baseball T-shirt: \$20.00
- MID Logo T-Shirt: \$15.00
- MID Baseball Hat: \$20.00
- MID Dance Bag: \$35.00 (SPECIAL ORDER ONLY)

Missoula Irish Dancers Uniform FAQ Sheet

Does Missoula Irish Dancers provide school uniforms?

Irish Dance Association (IDA) provides a uniform for every dancer. Thanks to our amazing IDA for providing these beautiful skirts. This is not the industry standard, and we are very lucky to be in a school that purchases and rents out these uniforms rather than asking parents to purchase new uniforms for their dancers ever year.

How much do the uniforms cost?

Costs for the uniforms vary based upon the type of uniform (dress, skirt, vest, or cape), and the style (Advanced, Pre-Advanced, Novice II, and Novice I), but they are all a significant investment. Costs are as follows:

Novice I skirt	\$125
Vest	\$160
Novice II skirt	\$275
Pre-Advanced skirt	\$300
Older style Advanced dress	\$500
Newer style Advanced dress	\$600
Cape	\$40

Who gets what uniform?

Female dancers in Blaze Mountain and Castle Mountain are issued a hair bow.

Female Fortress Mountain through Wolf Mountain level dancers are issued a skirt and a headband. Skirts are passed down based upon best fit and, where possible, level.

As of 2018-2019 Wolf level female dancers do not wear the embroidered tops. Instead they wear skirts with an embroidered cape. This decreases uniform expenses and allows our uniforms to grow with our dancers. Embroidered tops are still available for rental for Feis and private dance performances.

Male Fortress Mountain through Wolf Mountain level dancers receive vests.

How does my dancer get a uniform?

Uniforms are rented out to the dancers in the Fall. Parents are required to fill out a *Rental Contract* and a *Rental Evaluation Form* and provide a deposit for the uniforms.

Uniforms are then the dancer's family's responsibility until they are returned the following Fall.

How does the deposit process work?

A deposit is required and will be held by the Irish Dance Association for each rented uniform. The entire yearly rental fee applies regardless of when during the year you rent your uniform.

A portion of your rental fee is non-refundable. This portion is used for uniform maintenance, repairs, etc. The refundable portion of your deposit will be refunded to the renter or rolled forward to the next year's rental – your choice – when you return your uniform by the end of the rental period *and* it is clean and in good condition.

Please see the *Uniform Rental Contract* for complete details.

Uniforms	Rental Fee	Non-Refundable Deposit Fee	Total Refund (If returned in proper condition)	Purchase Fee
Novice I Skirts	\$40	\$15	\$20	\$125
Vests	\$45	\$20	\$20	\$160
Novice II Skirts	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$275
Pre-Advanced Skirts	\$55	\$30	\$20	\$300
Skirt and Cape	\$60	\$30	\$30	\$275 Skirt \$40 Sash
Dresses	\$60	\$35	\$20	\$500 (old style) \$600 (new style)
Capes	\$10/Feis	-	-	\$40

Damaged uniforms will result in forfeit of deposit and possibly further charges, depending on the extent of damage. Dancers and/or a parent/guardian are responsible for repairs.

When do I return my uniform?

Uniforms are due back to IDA the following fall on a date designated by the Uniform Coordinator. If a uniform is not returned, IDA will assume you wished to keep the uniform and will provide you with an invoice.

How do I clean and care for my uniform?

Uniforms should be hung carefully or laid flat so that the panels don't bend. Skirts with zippers should be unzipped when storing or hanging, as it prevents the panels from bending.

Dancers should avoid eating while wearing their uniforms and, when possible, they should remain standing as sitting in the uniforms can crease or bend the panels. When doing multiple performances in one day, or during Intermissions, skirts should be removed and stored properly.

Uniforms should be spot-cleaned after each performance by wiping down both the inside and outside with a soft, dry cloth to remove any dust. If necessary, use a slightly damp cloth to wipe down any particularly dirty spots.

Dancers are no longer required to dry clean uniforms prior to returning them. Instead, the rental fee has been increased by \$5 (the average price of dry cleaning), and skirts will be taken to the dry cleaners all at once by the Uniform Coordinator. This will aid in the timely return of uniforms and ensure all uniforms are properly cleaned prior to being rented out.

What about headbands?

Headbands are issued to all female dancers in the Fortress - Wolf Mountain levels. Headbands should be kept by the dancer until they are done performing with Missoula Irish Dancers, and can be kept from year to year. Headbands should be kept with your uniform when not in use. Please store it in a ziplock baggy. If your headband does not have a hair comb, and repeatedly falls off, please sew a hair comb onto the headband.

Making these headbands is a huge time commitment (about 2 hours/headband), so please take care for them and don't lose them! (Seriously, now that we've made some, and know how labor intensive it is, if you tell us you need a new one, we might cry!)

A special thanks to all the parents who have invested a significant amount of time in making these beautiful headpieces!

What else do I need aside from my MID issued uniform?

Please see the table under ***School Dress Requirements*** for a complete overview of what your child should be wearing when performing. Many of these items can be purchased using the *Group Order Forms* for a discount and/or shared shipping costs.

What if I want to keep the same uniform for my dancer, or for another one of my children, for the next year?

Please note that the uniform fit your dancer well on the *Uniform Evaluation Form* when returning it in the fall. We will do our best to reassign the same uniform. But we may also find that another uniform would fit even better, or may be a better match for your dancer's level. Regardless, you can't just keep that uniform for yourself or you'll be billed for it.

Why does my dancer always get used uniforms?

We are so happy to hear that your dancer has been able to use uniforms from our inventory! It's actually our goal to have enough uniforms available that we don't have to purchasing brand-new uniforms every year. We'll be able to use the money currently being spent on new uniforms for other purposes that benefit all our dancers, like teacher training, or week-end workshops, or... wow, the possibilities are endless!

Some years, the dancers in some of the levels have mismatched skirts. How did you decide which of the dancers got which skirts?

This is such a laborious process. You have no idea how hard it is to figure out who is going to fit into a relatively inflexible skirt that was made using another girl's measurements! We can assure you that there was no favoritism at work. We look at the measurements of each skirt, and try to figure out from the girls' measurements who is going to fit into it the best. We use waist measurements and front and back length measurements. Only after we ave a close-ish match do we look at the girl's names. Each skirt is truly assigned by fit.

You may notice even more mismatched skirts in future years, as all new skirts moving forward will feature the blue Celtic knot. As we retire other styles, this will be the official uniform for all our dancers.