



RULES & POLICIES

CLASSES:

- No parents are allowed in class area at any time.
- Where younger students need parental assistance with shoes etc, this should be done prior to class in outside waiting areas. Please also remind them to use restrooms prior to class.
- Students gain the most from class by arriving on time every class. If a student arrives more than 10 minutes late to class, the student may be asked to observe. Without proper warm-up, students risk injury.
- If no student shows up for a scheduled class within 15 minutes of scheduled start time, that specific class will be canceled for that day.
- Cleary Irish Dance is not responsible for providing care to students before or after class. Please arrive no more than 10 minutes before class; students should be picked up no later than 15 minutes after their class ends.
- No food or chewing gum. Dancers are encouraged to bring their own water bottles into class.
- No homework, books, toys or cell phones permitted in class.
- No one is to leave the dancing room during class without permission.
- Cleary Irish Dance apparel is mandatory for class participation, adult students exempt. Girls' hair should be tied back neatly off face and girls should always wear WHITE socks.
- Class fees are due per the tuition schedule issued annually. The monthly rate is a membership fee to class and is payable regardless of whether the student attends or not. Class fees normally cover a minimum of three classes per month. Fees may be handed in by student at class, by Venmo (@clearyirishdance) or alternatively mailed to Cleary Irish Dance LLC at P.O. Box 15904, North Hollywood, CA 91615-5904. Late fees apply per tuition schedule.
- Students are permitted and encouraged to make up any classes missed at other location(s) provided it is the same level class and adequate advance notice has been given to instructor. Make up classes must be taken within the same month and may not be carried forward to future months.
- Students who miss a full month of consecutive classes during the August-June dancing year will be subject to a \$35 re-registration fee on approval of their continuation in said class. This will only be waived due to injury or if 4 weeks advance notice is given.
- There may be no classes the week following any "Major" championships (Regional, National, All Ireland and World Championships) and/or any feis organized by the St. Ambrose IDA, Inc.
- It is understood that all rules and regulations of facilities where classes are held be strictly adhered to.
- Any communication on a class-wide or school-wide basis must be authorized and approved in advance by Margaret Cleary.
- Questions and concerns should be addressed directly to Margaret Cleary by email or phone **and not between classes**. It is disruptive and takes from students' class time if classes do not start on time because of parent interaction.
- Cleary Irish Dance requires 1 months' notice for withdrawal from classes. This must be communicated in writing.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are not mandatory but they do benefit students by increasing their confidence and providing extra practice. They are also meant to be stress free and enjoyable.

- No one is to dance in costume or represent the school in any manner without Margaret Cleary's prior knowledge and consent.
- No one is to volunteer dancers for any event. No one is to quote or suggest donations in relation to the shows. Please refer all enquiries to Margaret Cleary since there are different policies for different organizations.
- Please do not sign up for a show unless you can commit to attending.
- Professional behavior is expected from all students and parents when representing the school.
- Margaret Cleary is unable to attend all performances. In such instances, one or two persons will be designated in charge. The designated persons have full control, and their instructions and requests must be adhered to. Please do not question or interfere with their control.
- Please arrive at performances in a timely manner and do **not** enter function area. If arriving in costume, please make sure costumes are covered until you dance. Part of our show is the element of surprise!
- Where parents accompany students, Margaret Cleary or designated person(s) will check if it is appropriate for parents to enter function area and watch show.....please do not assume that you will be allowed in area. If parents are allowed into function area, they must be appropriately dressed for the occasion. Like students, parents' appearance and behavior are also a reflection of the school.
- When the school is booked for a show, we are an entertainment act. Thus, we arrive at a venue, perform and leave immediately following performances. Dancing at an event entitles no one to remain after show time. If you wish to attend the said function, you do so as a member of the public, not the school. This means that you change out of costume and pay full ticket price for the event. This is particularly relevant at fund raising events.
- It is understood that all dancers who attend championship classes will commit to a minimum of one performance a month, if requested.

COSTUMES:

- Students do not need to purchase costumes to participate in performances or competitions.
- The school costume has been exclusively designed by Margaret Cleary and as such is the trademark and copyright of the school. At no time may a person wear or exhibit the school costume in original or altered form, whether enrolled in the school or not, without prior permission of Margaret Cleary.
- All class costumes are owned by St. Ambrose IDA, Inc. Class costumes may be rented on an annual basis. Rental rates available upon request
- All costumes should be maintained in pristine condition. To facilitate this, costumes should be removed or covered up whenever a student is not performing or competing. If a costume is not in excellent condition and/or incomplete, Margaret Cleary has the right to refuse that student the right to participate in competition or show regardless of any entry fee having been paid or travel incurred.
- Periodic costume checks will be made. No costumes may be "borrowed" within the school without the prior permission of Margaret Cleary.
- Solo costumes are only necessary when a student enters preliminary championship or equivalent level. A solo costume represents a degree of advancement and dedication in a dancer and therefore, the student must prove their commitment and deserving of such. Any used solo dresses must be approved by Margaret Cleary and Katie Dean. All new solo costumes are to be made by the designated costume makers. All colors and designs are to be approved by Margaret Cleary and Katie Dean in advance.

COMPETITION (FEIS pronounced Fesh):

Participation in feises (feiseanna) or competitions is not mandatory but actively encouraged.

- All students are responsible for submitting their own entries (except where teachers only are permitted to enter students for major championship events). All dancers are responsible for keeping records of their competition levels.
- It is understood that no student may enter a feis if there are any outstanding balances to school.
- At no time, should anyone other than a teacher approach an adjudicator. Similarly, at no time should anyone approach the teacher if talking to an adjudicator.
- Presentation in competitions is very important and a reflection upon the school. Neatness and tidiness are essential.
- All dancers who wish to compete must participate in team dancing events as well as solo events where team dancing is requested by Cleary Irish Dance. It has always been understood at these specific events – no teams, no solos. Thus failure to show up for teams at a requested feis means a dancer may not do solos either. Where a student fails to show for a team dance, they will be required to apologize and refund entry fees to all other team members.
- Except in extenuating circumstances or conflicts with Cleary organized classes or events, all feis-going students are encouraged to enter and support all Southern California feiseanna.
- Hosting a feis is a major undertaking. Students and parents are reminded to be always courteous and helpful to hosting committees and patient if things do not run smoothly or on time. When attending a feis, be prepared to spend the day – relax and enjoy!
- Once a student is entered in a feis, it is understood that they will participate in all competitions entered. If for any reason, a student is unable to participate in any or all competitions entered, Margaret Cleary must be advised in advance so that feis committees, as a courtesy, are also advised.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or inappropriate behavior at any time (students and parents) will be grounds for dismissal.

FUND-RAISING:

- As with most organizations, fund-raising is an integral part of the school. All members are expected to help in fund-raising events.
- The largest undertakings by the school are the annual feiseanna held. Most dance schools run feiseanna so that students have a place to display their talents. The St. Ambrose Irish Dance Association, Inc., a non profit organization, has been set up primarily for this purpose. All members of the school are required to volunteer and/or participate in the St. Ambrose feiseanna.
- In addition to the feiseanna, other fund-raising activities may be scheduled throughout the year. Monies received from these events are kept in a school fund which is controlled by Margaret Cleary to use for the benefit of the school at her discretion. The aim is that everyone will benefit from this fund at some time or another.
- In the interests of unity throughout the various locations, all fund-raising activities that directly affect members will be initiated, directed and controlled by Margaret Cleary.

Rules and policies are formed to be adhered to. Failure to comply with any of the above rules and policies will result in suspension from the school. These rules and policies will be revised and updated as necessary.