



## Middle School Scholarship Recipient 2023 - Regan St. John

Prompt: Who has been your biggest inspiration, and how has that shaped your Irish dance journey?

When I was asked the question “Who has been your biggest inspiration, and how has that shaped your Irish Dance journey?” I knew who I was going to write about within seconds. I have had many inspirations throughout my years in dance, like one of my first teachers, Miss Tara, my cousin Grace who dances as well, and many others. But one of them has always stood out to me.

You may have seen her compete before but she is not just any dancer, she is Siobhan Kelly. Her skill sparkles more than her crown, dress, and buckles combined. She flies through the air, her birdies make her look like she is being lifted by strings, and her diddy doos move so quickly it looks like her feet are in fast motion.

She has been the biggest inspiration to me since I started Irish dancing in the 1st grade. She works hard teaching dance classes, learning in school, and of course, Irish dancing herself. She even went to Worlds a few months ago. She is funny, kind, caring, and ambitious. Sometimes, she can be a little strict (but only when me and my friends are fooling around). But most importantly, she is confident. She is confident in creating our recital dances, and when we are performing them for an audience. She is confident for me when I am about to go on stage to compete. But in my opinion, what is most important is that she is confident in herself which makes her an incredible role model.

Siobhan is one of the hardest working people I know. In addition to being an amazing Irish Dancer herself, she goes to school every single day. Her schedule is school, teach, study, sleep, repeat. Siobhan is also an incredible dance teacher. She knows how to critique your dance and she knows how to improve your dance. Siobhan knows how to teach dances I’ve never even heard of before. She can be a strict teacher, who makes sure you are always on task, doing the right thing and paying attention to every word she says. But she is also a fun

teacher who wants to have a good time with you and wants to make sure you are feeling great and in your best mood after you leave the studio each day.

Siobhan has been my inspiration and role model because she has always helped to improve my dance skills while continuing to work on her own as well. She always reminds me how important it is to work hard, push yourself and have fun.

This is why Siobhan Kelly has been my inspiration, and continues to shape my Irish dance journey.