

# HORSECENTERED CURRICULUM:

## GOLD LEVEL

**Gold Level** is the third and final Level in the HorseCentered curriculum. It applies advanced training concepts to groundwork skills, teaching students to train their horses ethically and effectively.

This Level challenges students to deepen their awareness of equine and human body language, demonstrating partnership and refined communication throughout their ground training practice.

### WHO IS GOLD LEVEL FOR?

- 🐾 Students who have **completed the Pink and White HorseCentered Levels.**
- 🐾 **Riding lesson students** with the maturity and physical ability to practice more ambitious groundwork skills, including liberty and work at the canter.
- 🐾 **Students who ride and train independently** and need empathetic tools for addressing unwanted behavior.
- 🐾 **Students who aspire to train project horses,** personally or professionally.
- 🐾 **Non-riding horse enthusiasts** who want to learn how to advance a working relationship with a horse on the ground.
- 🐾 **Backyard horse owners** interested in setting challenging goals and developing problem-solving skills.

### WHAT DOES GOLD LEVEL TEACH?

- 🐾 **Ethics in horse training,** including methods of evaluating training methods and safe ways to get equine feedback.
- 🐾 **Strategies for reducing anxiety** and food aggression.
- 🐾 **Advanced liberty skills** such as obstacle work, circling and transitions between all three gaits.
- 🐾 **Lateral steps** such as sidepass and dressage maneuvers in-hand.
- 🐾 **The role of groundwork in rehabilitation** and equine fitness.
- 🐾 Advanced **targeting** and **trailer loading** skills.
- 🐾 **Solutions for common “problem” behaviors** and the importance of addressing the root cause, including pain, environment, etc.

**Good horse training should be kind, effective, practical, and fun.**

**Gold Level** students are encouraged to consider the mental and physical benefits of ground training and to apply problem-solving skills to a variety of “real world” training scenarios.

Expect that it will take months of dedicated practice and study for students to achieve Gold Level objectives - especially if they are working with a school horse - but that it will be time well spent. **As students work toward big training goals, they will discover the possibilities created by patient, thoughtful practice,** and take their relationship with their horse to a whole new Level.

