

HORSEMANSHIP CURRICULUM:

PURPLE LEVEL

The **Purple Horsemanship Level** is an intermediate level, designed to reward patient practice by introducing more challenging flatwork and obstacles.

Students in this Level acquire the independent seat, secure base of support and coordinated use of aids necessary for more advanced riding, gaining experience and confidence both in and out of the arena.

WHO IS PURPLE LEVEL FOR?

- 🐾 **Students in regular group or private lessons** who have completed all previous **Horsemanship Levels** and who are eager to move on to more advanced riding.
- 🐾 **Riders who aspire** to show, trail ride, and/or participate in activities such as cross-country schooling.
- 🐾 **Students who are interested in riding at a collegiate level** or considering a career that involves riding, training and/or showing.
- 🐾 **Students who demonstrate initiative** by practicing between lessons, asking questions and setting goals.
- 🐾 **Confident, dedicated equestrians who are willing to Level Up their commitment** to fitness and independent study.

WHAT DOES PURPLE LEVEL TEACH?

- 🐾 **More sophisticated flatwork**, including direct transitions.
- 🐾 **Riding a harmonious dressage test** with attention to rhythm, relaxation, and bend.
- 🐾 **Introductory lateral steps** such as leg yield and sidepass.
- 🐾 **Riding at the gallop** with a secure, balanced galloping position.
- 🐾 **Knowledge of striding** and pole distances.
- 🐾 **English riders** jump a variety of grids and coursework exercises, in the arena and in the open, up to 2'6"-2'9".
- 🐾 **Western riders** negotiate polework exercises without stirrups and more complex trail obstacles, such as working a gate.

Purple Level is about the journey as much as the destination.

Students must learn how to work toward a goal with a commitment to self-directed practice - and to trust the magic of consistent, repetitive training.

Not all recreational students will achieve this Level. Achieving **Purple Horsemanship** requires hours of riding time, and for the average rider, increased fitness. Students who lease or own a horse will have the advantage of extra practice time, but must also keep the horse sound and appropriately conditioned. It is as important for students to be honest about their goals as it is for instructors to clearly outline the requirements of the work.

