

HORSEMANSHIP CURRICULUM:

TEAL LEVEL

The **Teal Horsemanship Level** is the seventh and most advanced Level in our mounted curriculum, designed to help students become empathetic riders and horse trainers.

It introduces more sophisticated dressage techniques and training philosophy, while asking students to ride with the confidence and secure position gained through extensive experience.

WHO IS TEAL 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 compete successfully, explore new disciplines, and/or develop a project horse.
-  **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 TEAL LEVEL TEACH?

-  **Progressive training** and dressage theory, allowing students to structure productive and positive schooling sessions on their own.
-  **Coordinated use of the aids** that allows the horse to work over the back with appropriate straightness and balance.
-  **Lateral maneuvers**, including shoulder in and haunches in, and more challenging transitions.
-  **How to ride countercanter** and prepare for **flying lead changes**.
-  **English riders** develop strong jumping skills over 3' courses while learning to design their own gymnastic exercises.
-  **Western riders** apply their skills to a variety of disciplines and demonstrate proficiency in riding one-handed.

Teal Level is for passionate students who persevere.

In an average lesson program, very few students are likely to earn a **Teal Horsemanship** ribbon. **Like a black belt in martial arts, this Level requires years of experience and dedicated practice**, especially if students are also bringing a horse up through the objectives.

We know our students have "graduated" from our curriculum when they have the ability to think like a trainer, when they can ride with awareness and appreciation of different horses and disciplines, and when they understand that this Level is not as much about completion as it is beginning a new journey.

