



Meadowlarke Stables Inc.

The break down for each level is based on what students need to be able to do / know to advance onto the next level.

LEVEL 1

- * groom & saddle without assistance
- * mount & dismount correctly
- * perform tuck and roll
- * sit to the trot
- * maintain the up down rhythm of rising trot
- * correctly use the crop
- * steer the horse and maintain forward motion
- * show a correct 2 point & 3 point position in walk & trot

LEVEL 2

- * groom & saddle correctly & present a well groomed horse for the lesson
- * clean tack properly
- * steer & maintain rising trot
- * rise to the trot on the correct diagonal & can switch from one diagonal to the other
- * work without stirrups in the walk and sitting trot
- * give the correct aids for canter from the trot
- * maintain a full seat position in the canter
- * canter individually and with their group
- * be able to lean back and slip the reins in all gaits

LEVEL 3

- * steer while maintaining canter
- * maintain 2 point position & release while riding over trotting poles & small “X’s”
- * work without stirrups in rising trot
- * tell what canter lead they are on & correct using a simple change
- * ride simple figures such as large circles & 3 loop serpentine
- * ride an emergency halt

LEVEL 4

- * maintain a consistent rhythm in the walk & trot
- * ride without stirrups in the canter
- * ride a variety of school horses successfully
- * mostly maintain leg contact with the horse’s sides
- * ride walk/trot/halt transitions accurately
- * jump lines of fences at the 2’3” height
- * understand how to count strides between fences
- * ride an emergency turn and halt



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LEVEL 5

- * ride small courses at the 2'6" height
- * understand contact and is mostly able to maintain an even contact with the horse's mouth
- * accurately count strides between lines
- * lengthen and shorten strides in all gaits
- * understands the concepts of leg yielding and can perform turn on the forehand
- * ride small fences without stirrups and/or reins
- * ride smooth and accurate transitions in all gaits

LEVEL 6

- * ride hunter and equitation courses at the 2'9" height
- * maintain the horses straightness
- * perform flying lead changes
- * perform haunches in/out in walk & trot
- * maintain rhythm in canter
- * accurately ride 10 meter circles, 5 loop serpentines & loops down the long side
- * understands the concept of bending the horse to conform to a bending line
- * understands flexion and counter flexion

LEVEL 7

- * smoothly ride a 3' hunter/jumper and equitation courses
- * perform leg yielding exercises in walk/trot/canter
- * understand counter canter
- * maintain rhythm while lengthening & shortening strides
- * consistently keep the horse straight & rhythmical
- * correct a difficult or green horse effectively and appropriately
- * perform a turn on the haunches
- * understand how to ride from leg to hand

LEVEL 8

- * smoothly & accurately ride a 3'6" hunter/jumper course
- * consistently ride counter canter
- * put a horse on the bit
- * understands how to teach a green or spoiled horse how to soften & accept the bit
- * ride shoulder in