



General Policies

1. To respect the schedules of Natalie Brady, please text or call during weekday business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Outside of those hours, please email unless it is a veterinary emergency. Thank you!
2. A 24-hour cancellation notice is required for all lessons.
3. Students, boarders, and visiting riders must sign a release of liability form before riding.
4. All riding is done at your own risk.
5. Dogs must be leashed at all times.
6. Smoking is not allowed.
7. No open-toed shoes, i.e. flip flops or sandals. This is for your safety.
8. ALWAYS wear your riding helmet while on the horse. TROXELS are not allowed. Charles Owen helmets are our preferred brain protector! Four Star Farm has helmets available for riders in lessons.
9. Always return equipment in clean condition and neatly hung or put away.
10. Clean up any manure your horse leaves behind in the arena, wash stalls, cross ties or aisles.
11. Four Star Farm is not responsible for personal items. It is your responsibility to properly store all personal gear not in use.
12. Please note that when trailering in horses not boarded at Valley Dressage, the barn charges a \$25 trailer-in fee, payable to Valley Dressage.
13. Please remember that if you break or lose a piece of FSF equipment or tack, you are expected to replace it within one week.
14. Have fun! Horses are an adventure.

Payment and Lesson Attendance Policies

1. Tuition options are available for four or eight lessons per month.
2. Tuition entitles a student to a standing appointment for the same day and time, depending on the lesson option. Note: Lesson time includes learning to groom and tacking a horse.
3. Lesson horse assignments are made upon arrival at the barn. If a rider would like to ride the same lesson horse consistently, please talk with Natalie about half leasing a lesson horse.
4. Lessons may be conducted individually or in small groups, at our discretion and depending on the needs of the rider. Private lessons are 45 minutes, group lessons are one hour.
5. Training and tuition fees are due by the 5th of the month. A late fee will be assessed after the 10th. Electronic bill pay is available.
6. When competing, coaching and horse use fees are billed following the event. Trailering fees are due at the time of service.
7. If paying per lesson, payment via cash, check or Venmo, is due at the time of lesson.
8. Monthly tuition is payable by check, credit card (3.5% fee) or electronic funds transfer (EFT). To receive the monthly discount, payment must be by EFT.
9. Missed lessons cannot be carried over or discounted from the next month's bill. If 24-hour notice has been given, you may reschedule **within the month** the missed lesson occurred. Make-up lessons are scheduled the last week of the month in which the missed lesson occurred.
10. Lessons are not scheduled on major holidays. All students are entitled to make up any lesson that falls on a major holiday.

Client Name _____

Client Signature* _____ Date _____

We are glad you have joined the Four Star Farm riding and horsemanship program! If you're a beginning rider, your lesson time will include learning to halter, lead, groom and tack up your assigned horse, which may compose a substantial time component of initial lessons. These are skills necessary to understanding the care involved in horsekeeping! When you've mastered these skills, you are welcome to arrive early to get your horse ready for your lesson and increase your time in the saddle. Also, beginning riders may start with vaulting to learn balance and position.

*Your signature on this document verifies you have read and understand all Four Star Farm policies.

Listed below are the skills you need to demonstrate prior to starting lessons with Natalie, who instructs advanced riders. Check them off as you master each and ride on!

- Safety rules
- Basic horse anatomy
- Tack parts
- Correct haltering and leading
- Groom and tack up your horse independently
- Care after riding
- Correct mounting and dismounting
- Emergency dismount
- Steering
- Aids for halting and moving forward
- Understand the role of the inside and outside leg and rein
- Know correct posting diagonal
- Post at the trot with and without stirrups
- Ride trot poles
- Stand in the stirrups at the walk, trot and canter
- Keep a dollar bill under the leg while riding
- Learn and ride the United States Eventing Association's lower-level dressage tests
- Mastering the half-halt
- Correct jumping position
- Trot and canter over a course of poles
- Jump a crossrail without stirrups and without reins
- Ride a course of six jumps (The progression is poles, crossrails, then crossrails and verticals.)
- Execute a turn on the forehand
- Demonstrate aids for lateral movements (leg yield, shoulder-in)
- Demonstrate keeping your horse straight
- Demonstrate correct geometry of a circle and riding corners
- Canter without stirrups

Once you have mastered these skills, you'll be ready to take lessons with Natalie.

Are you a parent who wants to help out during your child's lesson? A couple ways you can assist are to help find your child's helmet and scoop poop during the lesson. (Poop must be picked up immediately, not at the end of the lesson, to preserve the footing and keep the arena clean for everyone to enjoy.)