



QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL

Equestrian Program Guide 2023–2024



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QMS Equestrian Canada Rider Level Program

WHAT ARE RIDER LEVELS?

While the riding programs at Queen Margaret's School mirror the standards set forth by Equestrian Canada (EC), students may elect to participate in the Equestrian Canada Rider Level program. This program is a nationally recognized tool designed to help develop well-rounded equestrians and encompasses practical skills, theory, riding, testing and certification.

Why EC Rider Levels?

Working through the rider level program ensures our riders receive a balance of instruction that includes building specific riding skills while improving their understanding of practical horse care and theory. It supports riders' learning from the beginning stages onward up through competitive sport. Completion of the program is also an advantage for riders interested in becoming nationally certified coaches, as it is a prerequisite to pursuing certification. Completing these Rider Levels also make students eligible for high school credits:

- Rider Levels 1 and 2 = 2 Grade 10 credits
- Rider Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6 = 4 Grade 11 credits
- Rider Levels 7 and 8 = 4 Grade 12 credits

What Families Need to Know

Each Rider Level has three evaluating criteria: practical, theory and riding:

- **Practical** --> hands-on horsemanship skills (off the horse) are tested in this phase. Stable management concepts such as proper grooming, care of the horse, lunging and how to bandage are examples of topics covered.
- **Theory** --> Theory on horsemanship and riding concepts from Equestrian Canada Rider Level manuals are evaluated with a written test.
- **Riding** --> English riding skills are tested in a general riding phase for Levels 1 and 2 and a flat/dressage test and jumping phase for Levels 3–8.

Rider Level manuals 1–8 can be purchased from the Equestrian Office to study theory and practical concepts for testing. Study guides and practice tests are available from your coach upon request. Riders in Levels 3 and up are encouraged to purchase the EC Stable Management Manual in addition to the Rider Level guides for the practical portion.

Upon successful completion of optional Level tests, a frameable Certificate of Completion will be sent to each rider by Equestrian Canada.

***Please note:** Completion of rider levels is driven by the pace and progress of each individual rider. It is not expected that each rider will progress through a level each year as some levels may take more than one year to complete.

Scheduling

Starting with a self-assessment workshop in September, riders will be able to participate in scheduled practice sessions and test days. Additional practical stable management sessions will be offered as needed to support students participating in the EC Rider program. Your coach will advise if you should attend these sessions.

Students wishing to complete Rider Level testing can inquire with their coach(es) on their readiness and schedule testing as appropriate.

If you have questions about the Equestrian Rider Level Program, please contact Indiana Fedoriuk at ifedoriuk@qms.bc.ca.

QMS Horsemanship Workshops and Clinics

KNOWLEDGE & KNOW-HOW

There are a variety of workshops and clinics throughout the school year designed to improve students' general knowledge and skills with horses, horse care and horse showing. These events are open to riders of all levels, as well as parents and other family members looking to learn more about horses. Some of these workshops are included in the riding package for Team QMS riders.

September 15, 2023 | 5:30pm–7:30pm | \$35

IEA Info Session & Workshop with Savannah Leroux

An introduction to the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) and Hunt Seat Equitation. Learn about the format and requirements to ride on our new IEA team* and how to succeed at IEA shows. Some topics covered will be tips for riding new horses, how to ride equitation classes on the flat and over fences, rider turnout, show etiquette and IEA-specific rules.

Note: This workshop is required for QMS riders interested in joining the IEA team for 2023–2024. Open to riders in Grades 4 through 12, EC Rider Level 3 & up.

September 29, 2023 | 9:30am–11:30am | \$35*

Rider Level Info Session & Self-Assessment Workshop

Learn about the Equestrian Canada Rider Level program and the skills required to achieve certification for each Rider level. With the help of QMS coaches, students will conduct a self-assessment to determine the skills and knowledge they need to gain to successfully test for their next Rider level.

Note: This workshop is required for QMS riders interested in completing Rider Level Testing during the 2023–2024 school year. Open to riders in Grades 4 through 12.

November 3, 2023 | 5:30pm–7:30pm | \$35*

Inside the Judges Booth with Kristen Johnston

Whether you are looking to improve your results in the show ring or learn what the judge is looking for before your first horse show, this evening workshop will be full of relevant and insightful tips for riders of all levels. Kristen Johnston is an Equestrian Canada rated Equitation and Hunter Judge, as well as a regular judge and clinician at QMS.

November 23, 2023 | 5:30pm–7:30pm | \$35*

Common Injuries & Performance Impact Workshop with Dr. Kaitlin McDonald

Dr. Kaitlin McDonald is an equine veterinarian with a special interest in sports medicine and equine chiropractic. During this evening workshop participants will become familiar with common injuries horses sustain and how each injury may impact performance over the short and long term.

January 19, 2024 | 3:30pm–5:30pm | \$100

Rider Level Workshop I

Using a suitable QMS school horse, get hands on experience practicing the skills you need to successfully test for your next Rider Level. Whether it be practical experience lunging or wrapping a horse, or in-depth equine knowledge for written testing, a QMS coach will provide individual guidance to help you prepare for EC Rider Level Testing.

January 23, 2024 (time & date TBC) | \$35*

Sport Psychology Workshop – Facilitator TBA

At QMS we believe high performance is a way of life and support our athletes in building a strong, well-rounded foundation to help them achieve their goals and experience success. During this workshop, riders will learn about sport psychology and what it takes to perform at their best, both in and out of the saddle.

February 16, 2024 | 9:30am–12:30pm | \$100

Rider Level Practical Skills Workshop - POSTPONED

Using a suitable QMS school horse, get hands on experience practicing the skills you need to successfully test for your next Rider Level. Whether it be practical experience lunging or wrapping a horse, a QMS coach will provide individual guidance to help you prepare for EC Rider Level Testing.

March 1–2, 2024 | \$125*

Show Preparation Clinic with Savannah Leroux & Julia Spreen-Balcom

This clinic is mandatory if you wish to attend any clinics or off campus horseshows during the 2023-2024 QMS school year and is open to all students. Riders will be introduced to preparing themselves and their horses for clinics and horse shows, both on-campus and off. There will be basic show information provided on Day 1 with Savannah Leroux for students who have never shown before, and off-campus show information provided on Day 2 with Julia Spreen-Balcom for Team QMS riders.

May 9, 2024 | 5:30pm–7:30pm | \$35*

Course Design Workshop with Peter Holmes

Learn the art behind the building of Hunter/Jumper courses with renowned course designer Peter Holmes. From the hunter ring to FEI Grand Prix classes, Peter has a long history of course building for some of the most prestigious equestrian events around North America. We are extremely lucky to have Peter facilitate and design courses for our local SSITS horse shows! In this workshop you will learn the how and why behind the design giving the riders a deeper understanding of the dynamics of course lay out.

May 17, 2024 | 9:30am–11:30am | \$100

Rider Level Workshop II

Using a suitable QMS school horse, get hands on experience practicing the skills you need to successfully test for your next Rider Level. Whether it be practical experience lunging or wrapping a horse, or in-depth equine knowledge for written testing, a QMS coach will provide individual guidance to help you prepare for EC Rider Level Testing.

June 7, 2024 | 3:30pm–6:30pm | \$100

Rider Level Testing II

Complete your Rider Level Certification by writing the theory test and getting evaluated on the practical and/or riding portions using a suitable QMS school horse. Practice tests and guidance from a QMS coach will be available to clinic participants in advance upon request.

**The Team QMS Program includes five (5) evening/afternoon workshops at no extra charge.*

QMS Riding Clinics

SKILL BUILDING

At Queen Margaret's School we pride ourselves on the education opportunities available to our riders. Each year we plan a number of clinics with renowned clinicians, designed to support our riders' growth and progress. There is at least one clinic for every level of rider in our program. Please see rider level suitability under the clinic to see which clinics would be available to you. If you have questions about clinic suitability, our coaches are happy to discuss this with you and your family.

November 4, 2023 | \$150 (*\$125 if registered by October 20, 2023*)

Warm-Up Day Judging Clinic with Kristen Johnston

While the riders are doing their warm-up rounds for the QMS Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show, Kristen Johnston will spend some time giving them skills to work on from the Judges perspective to enhance their performance over the weekend QMS Hunter/Jumper Show. Kristen has trained and competed hunters and jumpers successfully for over 25 years. Kristen is an Equestrian Canada rated equitation and hunter judge.

EC Rider Levels 1 through 10.

November 25–26, 2023 | \$450 (*\$400 if registered by November 3, 2023*)

Hunter/Jumper Clinic with Bill Ulmer

Bill Ulmer is one of the Pacific Northwest's most respected and diverse professionals, who has had an extremely successful career in both the eventing and hunter/jumper industries. He holds two Masters degrees in Education and worked as a teacher and school principal for many years.

Prior to his extensive wins as both coach and rider in the Hunter/Jumper industry, Bill's career as an eventer spans from a North American Young Riders Championship team bronze medal in 1976, to finishing as the highest-placed Canadian at Burghley, GBR, in 1979, to two national championships and being short-listed for the 1984 Canadian Olympic Team.

EC Rider Levels 4 through 10, EC Rider Level 3 available as space permits.

December 9–10, 2023 | \$200 (*\$175 if registered by November 24, 2023*)

Dressage Clinic with Gina Allan

Gina is an Equestrian Canada Certified Level II Hunter/Jumper Coach, a Level III Theory Coach and is pursuing her Level III Dressage Coaching Certificate. Gina's vast experience includes three years studying and riding with former Canadian Equestrian Jumper Coach, Frank Sellinger, in Alberta before moving to Pennsylvania where she trained with international dressage clinician and author, Paul Belasik. Gina was able to focus on classical dressage training methods which led her to combining her knowledge and passions of fitness and riding into her winning program—Equifit Services.

EC Rider Levels 1 through 10.

February 24, 2024 | \$100

Vaulting Demonstration & Clinic—Stella French & Manestream Vaulters

Open demonstration at 11am, 1-hour group vaulting sessions starting at 11:30am. Sessions times will be assigned and circulated to participants.

Open to all QMS students and staff*. Come learn about the sport of vaulting from Victoria's foremost vaulting specialist and demonstration team! Coach Stella French holds certifications through the Equestrian Vaulting Association of BC (EVABC), Equestrian Canada and the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association, and has spent several years cultivating an experienced team of vaulting specialists. This clinic will offer historical information on the sport of vaulting, live demonstrations, and fun hands-on learning for all participants both on and off the horse!

**Note: participants are required to have properly fitted helmets and suitable footwear in order to participate.*

QMS Equestrian Special Events

HAVE FUN

Along with professional training, we believe in developing a genuine love for horses, being in the saddle and creating positive equestrian memories at Queen Margaret's School. We invite riders and their families to join us at these fun events to build friendships and learn more about the sport of Equestrian.

September 11, 2023 | 5:30pm–6:30pm | Free

QMS Equine Info Night

Join QMS Director of Equestrian, Angie Dobbie, for an informative hour covering the different equestrian programs at QMS, including details on the IEA (Interscholastic Equestrian Association) option, Half Lease Program, and all-encompassing Team QMS.

September 16, 2023 | \$150

IEA Practice Show I & IEA Team Social at QMS

Run in the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) format, students will have the thrill of drawing a horse to ride and competing in Hunt Seat equitation classes, both on the flat and over fences. This is an affordable and fun way for students without their own horses to be able to compete while improving their horsemanship and equitation skills. Practice at home in a friendly environment before joining next year's team competing in IEA shows across the United States.

November 5, 2023 | \$150–\$250

QMS Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show

Our QMS Schooling Show is a great way to begin your horse show career, or practice for the bigger shows, in a safe and fun environment. As long as you can walk and trot in a group, there will be classes for you. If you are not feeling ready to show yet, bring your friends and family to watch. If you wonder if you should attend, or what classes you should enter, our coaches are happy to discuss this with you and your family. There will be a rider clinic on Friday where registered students will receive valuable feedback from our judge, Kristen Johnston. Warm-up rounds will be on Saturday.

December 8, 2023 | 3:30pm–5:30pm | No charge

QMS Barn Christmas Party

Join us for holiday festivities, horsey style! Bring your family and friends to decorate cookies, make a horse-inspired craft and have your photo taken with your favorite horse. Santa has assured us he will make time in his busy schedule for a special visit!

December 10, 2023 | \$100–\$200

QMS Dressage Test Day

Put your flatwork skills to the test. This is a wonderful opportunity for riders curious about dressage shows, those who want extra practice for their EC Rider Level test or riders interested in fine tuning a test before a bigger show. This event is open to riders of all levels. Tests are ridden individually, not as a group. If you have questions about if you should attend, or what classes you should enter, our coaches are happy to discuss this with you and your family.

May 10–11, 2024 | \$150–\$250 per day

QMS Spring Finale Horse Show

Friendly competition, great prizes and support from your friends and coaches make this horse show a School favorite. With Hunter and equitation classes starting at walk/trot, there is something for everyone. If you are not feeling ready to show yet, bring your friends and family to watch. If you have questions about if you should attend, or what classes you should enter, our coaches are happy to discuss this with you and your family. Warm Up Day on Friday, Horse Show Day on Saturday.

Royal Competitions

ROYAL COMPETITIONS

Throughout the school year, competitive riders (Team QMS) at Queen Margaret's School travel throughout Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and select destinations to attend a variety of horse shows. QMS Academic and Equestrian staff work together to help our competitive riders balance their studies and their passion for equestrian competition. These horse shows vary in cost, level of competition and the number of competition days. If you have questions about which horse shows are the best fit for you and your horse, our coaches are happy to discuss this with you and your family.

Horse show costs are displayed in a range, as prices are affected by the number of students attending, divisions entered and if chaperoning is required. Prior to each horse show, students will receive a detailed estimate based on the number of riders hoping to attend.

For EC Rider Levels 4 through 10

September 2023

IEA Show 1	\$500–\$1000	Longview, WA, USA
*BC Hunter Jumper Association (BCHJA) Finals	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada

October 2023

IEA Show 2 & 3	\$1000–\$2000	Spanaway, WA, USA
IEA Show 4 & 5	\$1000–\$2000	Blaine, WA, USA

November 2023

IEA Show 6 & 7	\$1000–\$2000	Blaine, WA, USA
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December 2023

IEA Show 8	\$500–\$1000	Snoqualmie, WA, USA
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January 2024

IEA Show 9	\$500–\$1000	Olympia, WA, USA
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February 2024

IEA Regional Finals	\$1000–\$2000	Tenino, WA, USA
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March 2024

IEA Zone Finals	\$1000–\$2000	Sherwood, OR, USA
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April 2024

*Thunderbird Season Opener (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada
*The Oaks	Price to be Quoted	San Juan Capistrano, CA, USA
SSITS Horse Show (VIHJA)	\$1500–\$3000	Saanich, BC, Canada

May 2024

SSITS Horse Show (VIHJA)	\$1500–\$3000	Saanich, BC, Canada
*Thunderbird Canadian Premier (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada
*Thunderbird BC Open (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada

June 2024

*Thunderbird West Coast Classic (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada
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July 2024

*Thunderbird Western Family (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada
*Arbutus Meadows (VIHJA)	\$1500–\$3000	Nanosee, BC, Canada
*Milner Downs Classic I (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada
*Milner Downs Classic II (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada

August 2024

*VIHJA Benefit Show (VIHJA)	\$1500–\$3000	Saanich, BC, Canada
*Thunderbird Summer Fort Welcome (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada
*Thunderbird Summer Fort Classic (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada
*Thunderbird Summer Fort Festival (BCHJA)	\$4000–\$6500	Langley, BC, Canada

September 2024

*SSITS Fall Finale (VIHJA)	\$1500–\$3000	Saanich, BC, Canada
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**Note: attendance at these shows to be scheduled upon request.*

Make-Up Lessons

MISSED LESSONS

When deciding on the number of lessons included in a riding package each school term, we take into consideration school breaks, Professional Development days, outdoor education trips, assemblies, field trips, etc. However we realize from time-to-time absences may cause a student to fall behind in their term lesson count despite these considerations.

Should a student not meet the term lesson count due to an **excused*** absence, make-up lessons may be scheduled through his or her riding coach pending availability. Excused absences include illness or mandatory attendance at school events, such as outdoor education or assemblies.

****Please note: most absences caused by personal scheduling conflicts or optional external student activities do not qualify for make-up lessons.***

It is the responsibility of the student and parents/guardians to provide 24 hours' notice for excused absences to the Equestrian Office at equestrian@qms.bc.ca. Any missed lessons without advance notice will be considered a "no show" and will not qualify for make-up lessons.

Should the Equestrian Centre need to cancel a student's lesson for any reason, the student will be able to schedule a make-up lesson in lieu of the canceled lesson at an alternate date / time as suitable.

Make-Up lesson windows:

In most cases, make-up lessons will be scheduled after school or on weekends during the school year as follows:

- Lessons missed in the fall semester must be made up between November 1 and December 31, 2023.
- Lessons missed in the spring semester must be made up before the end of the school year.

If you have questions about whether your child has Make-Up Lessons available, please contact equestrian@qms.bc.ca.

2023–2024 Equestrian Camps

GET RIDING!

During breaks and holidays, The Shirley Burr Equestrian Centre at QMS stays active with riding camps for all levels of riders. Participants are encouraged to become knowledgeable equestrians who share our commitment to excellent horse care and love for the equestrian sport. Students will be divided into groups and given mounts suitable to individual skill level. Most camps include formal riding and theory lessons along with horse related activities and games.

Pro-D & Term Break Camps

October 20, 2023 (Single Day)

Pony Pals Pro-D Day Camp	\$100	Ages 5–10	5 hours
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November 10, 2023 (Single Day)

Pony Pals Term Break Camp	\$100	Ages 5–8	5 hours
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Christmas Camp

December 18–22, 2023

Pony Pals Christmas Riding Camp	\$425	Ages 5–8	Half Day
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Spring Break Camps

March 11–15, 2024

Pony Pals Spring Break Riding Camp I	\$425	Ages 5–8	Half Day
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March 18–22, 2024

Pony Pals Spring Break Riding Camp II	\$425	Ages 5–8	Half Day
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Summer Camps

June 24–28, 2024

Pony Pals Summer Camp I	\$425	Ages 5–10	Half Day
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July 8–12, 2024

IEA Summer Camp	\$600	Ages 9 & Up	Full Day
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July 15–19, 2024

Pony Pals Summer Camp II	\$425	Ages 5–10	Half Day
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July 22–26, 2024

Pony Pals Summer Camp III	\$425	Ages 5–10	Half Day
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The Year at a Glance

Complete Schedule

September 11, 2023	Equine Info Night
September 15, 2023	IEA Info Session & Workshop
September 16, 2023	IEA Practice Show I & Social
September 23, 2023	IEA Show 1, Longview, WA
September 29, 2023	Rider Level Info Session & Self-Assessment Workshop
October 7-8, 2023	IEA Show 2 & 3, Spanaway, WA
October 20, 2023	Pony Pals Pro-D Day Camp
October 21-22, 2023	IEA Show 4 & 5, Blaine, WA
November 3, 2023	Inside the Judge's Booth Workshop with Kristen Johnston
November 4, 2023	Warm-Up Day Judging Clinic with Kristen Johnston
November 5, 2023	QMS Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show
November 10, 2023	Pony Pals Term Break Camp
November 18-19, 2023	IEA Show 6 & 7, Blaine, WA
November 23, 2023	Common Injuries & Performance Impact Workshop with Dr. Kaitlin McDonald
November 25-26, 2023	Hunter/Jumper Clinic with Bill Ulmer
December 2, 2022	IEA Show 8, Snoqualmie, WA
December 8, 2023	QMS Barn Party
December 9, 2023	Dressage Clinic with Gina Allan
December 10, 2023	Dressage Test Day
December 18-21, 2023	Pony Pals Christmas Camp (Half Day Ages 5-8)
January 14, 2024	IEA Show 9, Olympia, WA
January 19, 2024	Rider Level Workshop I
January 23, 2024	Sports Psychology Clinic – Facilitator TBA
February 10-11, 2024	IEA Regional Finals, Tenino, WA
February 16, 2024	POSTPONED
February 24, 2024	Vaulting Demonstration & Clinic with Manestream Vaulters

March 1, 2024	Show Prep Clinic with Savannah Leroux
March 2, 2024	Show Prep Clinic with Julia Spreen-Balcom
March 11–15, 2024	Pony Pals Spring Break Camp I
March 18–22, 2024	Pony Pals Spring Break Camp II
April 2024	Thunderbird Season Opener (dates TBA)
April 2024	April SSITS (dates TBA)
May 9, 2024	Course Design Workshop with Peter Holmes
May 10, 2024	QMS Spring Finale Show Warm Up Day
May 11, 2024	QMS Spring Finale Show Hunters & Equitation
May 2024	May SSITS (dates TBA)
May 17, 2024	Rider Level Workshop II
May 2024	Thunderbird Canadian Premier (dates TBA)
May 2024	Thunderbird BC Open (dates TBA)
June 7, 2024	Rider Level Testing II
June 2024	Thunderbird Westcoast Classic (dates TBA)
June 24–28, 2024	Summer Lessons Week I
June 24–28, 2024	Pony Pals Summer Camp I (Half Day Ages 5–10)
July 2–5, 2024	Summer Lessons Week II
July 2024	Thunderbird Western Family
July 8–12, 2024	IEA Summer Camp (Full Day Ages 9 & up)
July 2024	Arbutus Meadows Summer Show
July 2024	Milner Downs Classic I & II
July 15–19, 2024	Pony Pals Summer Camp II (Half Day Ages 5–10)
July 15–19, 2024	Summer Lesson Week III
July 22–26, 2024	Pony Pals Summer Camp III (Half Day Ages 5-10)
July 22–26, 2024	Summer Lesson Week IV
July 29 – August 11, 2024	Horses Summer Vacation
August 19–23, 2024	Summer Lesson Week V
August 26–30, 2024	Summer Lesson Week VI



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