



2023/2024 Riding School Package

Session Dates

Our lesson program runs in sessions from September to June, with summer classes on an alternate schedule due to our busy competition schedule. Each fall, we redo our lesson schedule based on client availability. Scheduling this way allows us to create cohesive group lessons, as well as balance our wonderful school horses' workloads.

Riding is a year-round sport, so all students are automatically enrolled for the next session and ideally, the schedule remains consistent from September - June. If you wish to discontinue classes or need to change your lesson time, please notify the office via email at least three weeks prior to the end of the session so we can adjust the schedule as needed. We accept new students at any time, space permitting. [Contact us](#) to schedule an introductory lesson!

Session Dates: (see dates closed for holidays & schooling shows on website)

- Fall Session: Tuesday, September 5th - Friday, December 22nd
- Winter Session: Saturday, January 6th - Friday, March 8th
- Spring Session: Saturday, March 16th - Sunday, June 23rd
- Summer Session: Tuesday, July 2nd - Monday, August 26th

Session Dates	# of Classes	Lesson Type		
		Group	Small Group	Semi/ Private
Fall Session: Sept 5 – Dec 22	Weekends: 14	\$1050.00	\$1155.00	\$1260.00
	Weekdays: 16	\$1200.00	\$1320.00	\$1440.00
Winter Session: Jan 6 – Mar 8	9	\$675.00	\$742.50	\$810.00
Spring Session: Mar 16 – Jun 23	14	\$1050.00	\$1155.00	\$1260.00
Summer Session: July 2 – Aug 26	8	\$600.00	\$660.00	\$720.00

Lesson Pricing

All pricing includes HST. Lesson packages are pro-rated for new students starting mid-session.

- **Multi-Lesson Discount** - \$5.00/off per lesson for siblings or riders taking 2+ lessons/week.
- Lessons will be invoiced via email and must be paid by the second class of the session or you will be billed the per lesson rate and may lose your spot in the schedule.
- During the longer fall and spring sessions, payment can be made in two installments.
- We accept e-Transfer (preferred), cash or cheque. As our pricing has not been adjusted to include credit card processing fees, a 3% fee applies if you wish to pay by Visa/MasterCard.
- All lesson fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Missed Lessons

We are streamlining our make-up lesson policy. Students may have TWO make-up lessons per session, as long as you provide **at least 24 hours' notice** via email. We will reply to your email with a code to book a make-up lesson using our [online scheduler](#). With less than 24 hours' notice, unfortunately no make-up lessons can be provided. The only exception to the two make-up limit is a pre-planned event (i.e. vacation, family event, etc.); you may reschedule if you provide at least TWO-WEEKS advance notice and it does not count towards your two make-up lesson limit.

- If you cancel a private lesson, you may not be able to find an opening for a private lesson make-up and may have to do a group lesson instead.
- Make-up lessons are only available to students currently enrolled in lessons and must be made up prior to the end of the session.
- Make-up lessons are nontransferable and **cannot** be deducted from the next session fees.
- If Raynham Stables has to cancel a class, we will ensure that you are able to reschedule the lesson or we will deduct it off the next session's fees.

Inclement Weather Cancellations

Lessons will be cancelled in the event of freezing rain, heavy snow, or extreme cold (below -12c before the wind chill) so that no one is driving in unsafe conditions. NEW this year: the winter session will be billed for all 9 classes, and then ALL inclement weather cancellation will be deducted from your spring session invoice. **Please note that cancellations will be posted on the [blog](#) ONLY** so please check before heading to the barn. On weekends, cancellations will be posted by 7:30am and weeknights will be posted by 1:00pm.

Raynham Rider Responsibilities

Riders need at least 30 min before AND after their lesson to properly care for their horse. Good horsemanship is a crucial part of learning to ride. There is tack up help to assist beginner riders.

- Thoroughly groom your horse before tacking up, to check for injury and to prevent rubs
- Pick hooves before and after you ride (checking for rocks, thrush, etc.)
- Sweep your grooming stall before & after you ride to leave it clean for the next rider.
- Please store personal items in the lockers when riding to prevent items from getting lost & keep the tack-up area tidy.
- Properly cool out and groom/bathe horse after your lesson.
- Thoroughly clean your horses tack and put it away properly after every ride.
- Please leave all areas tidy. If you move/use something – put it back where you found it.
- POOP & SCOOP – if your horse poops anywhere on the property (aisle, driveway, paths, grooming stall, riding ring outside of a lesson, etc.) you must clean it up.
- Check with tack up help to see if horse requires any first aid, feed or medication
- In the winter, ensure you put the horses' blanket on correctly, to prevent damage to blanket and injury to the horse.
- Be polite and respectful to fellow riders, staff and volunteers.
- Always prioritize the horses' health and welfare before personal goals and aspirations

Raynham Stables Barn Rules

- All riders must wear a correctly fitted ASTM approved helmet and boots with a small heel.
- All riders must [sign a release waiver](#) before riding.
- Only riders are allowed in the barns and tack-up area. If the rider is under 8 years old, a parent may stay with them (no siblings allowed). Spectators may watch from the bleachers or wait at the picnic tables outside.
- Only riders are permitted in the paddocks. All riders under the age of 12 MUST wear a helmet and be accompanied by a staff member when entering a paddock.
- Only boarders and staff are permitted in the boarder (big) barn.
- No open toe shoes (sandals, crocs, canvas shoes, etc.) permitted in the barns or near horses.
- No running or screaming allowed on the property. Horses are prey animals and can be frightened by loud noises or sudden movement.
- Do not feed anything to the horses without permission from staff.
- Friendly dogs are welcome but must be kept on a leash and kept away from the horses.
- The yard around the house is private property. Please stay off this area.
- Please drive SLOWLY on the driveway as there are many children and animals on the property. When arriving, if there is someone already on the hill approaching the road, please WAIT at the top of the driveway as there is not enough room to pass on the hill.
- Absolutely NO SMOKING allowed on the property.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I start lessons?

We offer lessons for riders ages 6+, and all levels, from non-riders to advanced. New riders are required to do 4 – 12 private or semi-private lessons to start (depending on age and natural ability) before they can join a group class. Riders with previous experience need to schedule an assessment lesson so we can evaluate your riding ability before placing you in an appropriate group class. Please [contact us](#) to schedule a time!

How long does a lesson take?

Students are expected to arrive 30 minutes before their lesson time to groom and tack up. Students should be in the ring, mounted and ready to ride, at the scheduled start of their lesson. Novice level and above private lessons are expected to mount 15 min early to warm up (once approved by their instructor). After their lesson, students are expected to properly cool out and groom their horse before putting them away. Students are also expected to clean their tack and put it away before leaving and sweep their grooming stall. Overall, it takes approximately 2 hours for a riding lesson.

What equipment do I need to ride?

All riders must have the following gear:

- Correctly fitted, ASTM approved helmet (adjustable is ideal for children). Bike helmets are NOT suitable for riding horses.,
- Boots with a 1/2" - 1" heel (rain boots are fine for beginners, paddock boots with half chaps or field boots are preferred. We do not recommend rubber riding boots)
- Long pants (specific riding breeches or fitted leggings/track pants - jeans can rub)
- Riding gloves & a crop are recommended
- Long hair should be tied back, and loose jewelry or hoodies are strongly discouraged as they can pose a safety risk.
- Please put your name on all your riding equipment, Raynham Stables is not responsible for lost items. Riders can store their gear in the lockers during their lesson.

Where can I go to get riding apparel?

- Greenhawk (www.greenhawk.com) - Multiple locations, package for beginners
- Bahrs Saddlery (www.bahrsaddlery.com) - Hornby, ON
- Bakers Saddlery (www.bakerssaddlery.com) - Markham, ON
- Equestrian Fashion Outfitters (www.equestrianfashionoutfitters.com) - Sharon, ON
- Pleasant Ridge (www.pleasantridge.ca) - Brant, ON (Far away but has good deals and free shipping over \$100).

Do I need winter riding gear?

Just like any other outdoor winter sport, it's very important to dress appropriately! Dress like you would to go skiing or spend a day outdoors in the snow. Moisture wicking layers, riding specific winter boots & gloves, helmet covers or headbands and hot packs for those really cold days all ensure riding is comfortable year-round! For more details, see our blog post -

<http://raynhamstables.blogspot.com/2019/11/winter-riding-tips.html>

Can I pick who I get to ride?

One of the advantages of being a riding school student is having the opportunity to learn from a variety of horses! Our instructors work hard to ensure riders and horses are suitable matched and all of our wonderful school horses have something valuable to teach our students. We are happy to hear requests from students but the only way to guarantee a particular horse to ride is to part board, lease or purchase a horse. Our #1 priority when assigning horses is ensuring everyone that rides that day has someone safe and suitable for them to ride!

Can I jump every lessons?

Flatwork/dressage is the foundation for all riders and horses. Once students are deemed ready to jump, classes will alternate dressage and jumping so they can continue to work on their foundational skills as well. Horses only have so many jumps in them, and in the interest of protecting our wonderful school horses' health and well-being, we need to ensure they are not jumped too frequently. Lesson content will always be subject to the discretion of the instructor/riding school and in some instances a jumping lesson may need to be replaced by a dressage lesson (i.e. the day after a show, extreme heat, etc.).

Why is there a limit on make-up lessons?

Your lesson time is reserved for you, and we need to maintain a certain number of school horses to be able to accommodate all of our students. Horses are very expensive to maintain, and those costs do not change if you are unable to attend your lesson. It's unfair to the horses to ask them to work extra times during a week if a rider is unable to make their lesson, which is why all make-up lesson spaces are created by other riders cancelling a lesson. This is why it is very important that riders provide as much notice as possible and why we are unable to accommodate make-up lessons with less than 24 hours' notice.

How quickly can I expect to advance?

Progression is very much individual – some students naturally progress faster than others. Some things that can aid progression include; physical activity outside of riding (fitness is important for riders), staying and watching others ride, and nothing beats more time in the saddle! Generally, riders can expect to learn to walk, trot, canter and learn basic figures within 6 months. If riders wish to jump, they are usually ready within 6 to 12 months of starting to ride. Younger riders (under 8 yrs. old) may progress slower due to their more limited strength and attention span.

What are the next steps?

The best thing about horseback riding is it is a life-long sport – there is always something to learn! Students that are keen to take their riding to the next level may be interested in riding 2x per week, part boarding/leasing a horse or starting to compete. Please speak with your instructor for more details!