

Iron Valley Equine Center, LLC:
Information for New Clients

We offer high-quality professional instruction to riders of all ages and ability levels in Hunt Seat Equitation, giving riders a strong foundation from which to pursue any discipline such as Equitation, Hunters, Foxhunting, Showjumping, Dressage, and Eventing. We provide a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for our students, horses, and staff.

Contact Information:

Kate Donis, Owner and Trainer
Phone: 518-222-0509 (call/text 7 am - 8 pm)
Email: kndonis@gmail.com

Charlotte Morse, Assistant
Phone: 443-974-7216 (call/text 7 am - 8 pm)
Email: charlottenewboldmorse@gmail.com

Getting Here:

Our address is 1385 Silver Lake Road, Au Sable Forks, NY 12912.

The barn is off of Silver Lake Road between East Kiln Road and Nelson Road. At the top of the driveway, there is a sign advertising East Kiln Farm. Continue down the driveway and turn left, driving towards horse paddocks with our red indoor on your right. Please park in the courtyard near the horse trailers without blocking any entrances to the barn.

What to Wear:

Safety is of utmost importance to us, so we expect all of our riders to be properly attired for each lesson. That said, we understand that it is often expensive and impractical to acquire an entire riding wardrobe, especially for still-growing kids. Therefore, we have a large collection of children's boots, gloves, and pants that we are happy to loan. Although we would like students to have their own ASTM/SEI approved helmet if they plan to ride regularly, we do have helmets of varying sizes that we can loan while students try out riding.

In order to be safely attired, students will wear:

- An ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet, properly fitted and checked by Kate or Charlotte
- Breeches or other form-fitting pants that aren't jeans
- Riding boots
- Riding gloves
- Layers as appropriate for the season

A note about winter riding: we will continue to do lessons until it dips below about 20°. We often use the colder days as a chance for students to ride bareback, improve their seat, and use their pony's natural heat to help stay warm! Warm layers are key to riding comfortably in winter temperatures, and so are hand- and foot-warmers. A few hours at the barn on a chilly day are a great way to stay active in the cold!

If you do decide to invest in your own equipment, we like to shop local at Adirondack Tack in Plattsburgh. Owner Carol is extremely knowledgeable and can get you ready to ride in all seasons!

What to Expect During the First Lesson:

We find that our students get the most out of riding when they focus not only on their saddle time, but also on the horsemanship required to care for their horse and equipment before and after their lesson.

For the first lesson, Kate or Charlotte will meet the student and make sure they are properly attired. The student will then go with the instructor to bring their pony in from the pasture, learning how to put on the halter and safely lead the pony. Once inside the barn, the instructor will help them groom and tack up the pony.

We start beginners on the lunge line and without stirrups to instill a strong seat; depending on student's age and current riding level, they will progress over time to sitting and posting the trot, steering around the arena and over poles at the walk and trot, cantering on the lunge line, cantering off the lunge line, and trotting and cantering over small jumps.

At the end of the lesson, the student will learn how to untack and rub down their pony and clean their tack. They will put their pony away after giving lots of pats and a treat!

Parents and guardians are welcome to watch the lesson if desired. We have a viewing area in the indoor.

Rates:

- \$90 – one hour-long private lesson (\$115 with one sidewalker and \$125 with two sidewalkers)
- \$70 – one hour-long semi-private lesson (2-3 riders of similar ability)
- \$60 – one hour and a half-long group lesson (4-6 riders of advanced ability)

We accept cash, checks made out to Iron Valley Equine Center, and credit cards. If paying with a card, we also pass on the 3.5% Paypal processing fee.

In addition to lessons, we have an Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) riding team for fourth and fifth graders, middle- and high-schoolers of all ability levels; participation does not require owning your own horse. We also offer horses for sale and full or half-lease. Talk to Kate about these options if you would like to show, foxhunt, or trail ride with us – we do it all!

Liability:

Students and their parent or guardian must sign a waiver before their first lesson. We have copies in the barn.

Cancellation Policy:

Except in cases of emergency, we need 24 hours notice for lesson cancellations and/or rescheduling. If you can't give us 24 hours notice, we will need to charge for the hours reserved, as it is hard to fill empty lesson slots on such short notice.