



CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY FROM ACADEMY TO A SUIT

GABRIELLA SEEBERGER

FAMILY

Todd, Lori, Adriana, Logan and Landon Seeberger
Castleton, New York

HOW DID YOU GET INTRODUCED TO HORSES?

"We went to the Castleton Community Fair when Gabriella was three and she fell in love with horses," said her mom Lori. "Some time later we found a local barn and tried that but it wasn't the right fit. We tried a couple of barns and none of them worked: one didn't feel safe, one didn't really focus on kids. We were barnless for a while and then my husband did a Google search and found Braeburn Equestrian Center. We did one lesson and immediately it clicked: they were so kind and it felt safe." "Mom introduced me to a bunch of sports, but I loved the horses," said Gabriella. "I've always wanted to ride."

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RIDING?

I'm 9-years-old and I've been riding two and half years.

HOW LONG DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN ACADEMY?

One season.

WHAT HORSE ARE YOU SHOWING NOW AND IN WHAT DIVISION?

MCH Remington. His barn name is Remi and I show Walk Jog Western Pleasure with Amy and Page Champion.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE FEELING OF NOW PARTICIPATING IN SHOW CLOTHES IN PERFORMANCE CLASSES?

There are a lot more people. Remi likes being shown. It's more exciting and there are more noises. It's different at a horse show, there is a lot more going on. Remi is Western but I do some saddle seat lessons with him. He likes apple treats the most and he's funny when he puts his lips in a circle to chew while he's on the crosstie.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

She's easy going and doesn't yell. Amy is pretty clam and very nice. She tells me to remember my diagonals and to look up where I want to go. Page sometimes watches my lessons and he's very positive.

WHAT GOALS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS YEAR?

When I'm done with walk trot I'm looking forward to cantering. I want to work on cantering over the winter. It will be my next step up.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR FRIENDS WHO ASK YOU ABOUT RIDING?

Some of my friends at school do ride but the others I tell them I've always wanted to ride and I love horses. I don't care about the work, I just want to ride. I like brushing them and cleaning stalls, it's all worth it to ride. I get to go to the barn twice a week if they are home.

INSTRUCTOR'S COMMENT

"She's a dream student," said Amy Champion. "She has a great work ethic and just loves it. Gabby is definitely a kid who will do this her entire life. The biggest thing I've had to work on is her handling the pressure at the shows. She's adorable and there is something about her that just makes you smile when you look at her. When you work with her she enjoys the whole process. She wants to be involved and follows the big girls around to be a part of it."