

YOU CAN'T REALLY BE A GOOD HUMAN BEING
UNLESS YOU'RE ROOTED IN WHAT IS. WE
DON'T WANT EFFETE INTELLECTUALS, IVORY
TOWER INTELLECTUALS, WE WANT MEN AND
WOMEN WHO ARE TOUGH, WHO ARE REAL,
WHO KNOW HOW TO HAVE AN ADVENTURE.



—Prof. Kyle Washut,
President of Wyoming Catholic College

IN THE WEST

From the Greeks and Romans to the chivalric tradition of the Middle Ages to the American West, horsemanship has been a key part of human formation. Students read and reflect on Xenophon and contemporary cowboys and trainers to understand how to exercise dominion, not domination, over the horse. As Xenophon says, “The majesty of men themselves is best discovered in the graceful handling of such animals.”



“ THE HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM WAS AN
ESSENTIAL COMPONENT IN MY FORMATION. IT
TAUGHT ME SELF CONTROL, TO BE BOTH STRONG
AND GENTLE AT THE SAME TIME. HORSEMANSHIP IS
THE WHERE THE MIND AND BODY CAN COME INTO
UNION IN THE DANCE THAT IS RIDING. ”

—Aidan Wood, '23



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WHY RIDE?

One of the unique aspects of the education at Wyoming Catholic College, as opposed to other Newman Guide schools, is our Western setting, and integrating the cowboy tradition in our horsemanship program. In encountering “God’s first book,” horsemanship allows our students to engage with nature in its animate form. In a “classroom” where nature is at its most relational, students enter into the horse’s world, learn how horses function, and become a benevolent leader over their horses. They establish a partnership based on respect, the understanding of self and others, and the constant exercise of the four cardinal virtues.

IN THE *ETHICS*, ARISTOTLE TELLS US THAT VIRTUE IS FORMED BY HABIT...WE EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF USING PRUDENCE TO KNOW WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT, FORTITUDE TO ENGAGE IN THE ARDUOUS, TEMPERANCE TO MODERATE ACTIONS, AND JUSTICE TO GIVE THE HORSE ITS DUE. IN THIS WAY, WE BRING THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES INTO THE PRACTICAL SPHERE WITH THE STUDENTS.

—Lorine Sheehan, '14
Horsemanship Program Director



REAL ADVENTURE

The art of horsemanship requires immediate decisions and develops the ability to act quickly and effectively. Students learn to direct the strength of the horse to their own purpose, to rule over a 1,000-pound animal with a will of its own. As the culmination of the program, the students design their own Quadrille—a drill traditionally used by cavalry to prepare for warfare—and ride as a team in a coordinated pattern.

