



# CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY FROM ACADEMY TO A SUIT HALLIE BLAINE

## **FAMILY**

Parents: Kevin Blaine and Melissa Morrell  
Grandparents: Tim and Jane Morrell

## **HOW DID YOU GET INTRODUCED TO HORSES?**

My mom (trainer Melissa Morrell).

## **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN RIDING?**

Since I was two.

## **HOW LONG DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN ACADEMY?**

Two years.

## **WHAT HORSE ARE YOU SHOWING NOW AND IN WHAT DIVISION?**

Equinox Merlin. We call him Merlin. I show in Walk Trot Hunt Seat Equitation and Pleasure. He really likes to show and begs for anything you'll give him.

## **CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE FEELING OF NOW SHOWING IN A SUIT AND PARTICIPATING IN EQUITATION AND PERFORMANCE CLASSES?**

Merlin is very different from other horses. He is so Western and Hunt and he keeps his head set more than what I showed in Academy. I'm more excited that I get to ride in real classes now because I was born with horses. It's super fun, a lot better than just walking and running around.

## **WHAT GOALS DO YOU HAVE FOR THIS YEAR?**

I'm going to do really good this year. I'm going to try my hardest. I ride pretty often and I love brushing them and giving them treats.

## **TELL US ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR (MOM)**

She loves country music! Sometimes she's kind of hard on me. She yells at me to get my diagonals, heels down, elbows back, head set, chin up, and back arched. She's a good instructor for everyone else too. Maggie Smith also helps me in the show ring when she's on the rail.

## **IS THERE ANYONE ELSE YOU LOOK UP TO OR FOLLOW?**

My friend Rihana Blair who is in the barn. I watch the hunt seat and saddle seat classes. I also love hanging with my friends that I don't get to see often.

## **INSTRUCTOR'S COMMENT**

"It can be very frustrating at times when she doesn't listen," said Melissa Morrell of instructing her own daughter. "I'm impressed by her natural ability and her desire to show. She loves it! She gets to ride almost every day in the summer. We get to her lessons when we get to them and then she trail rides every morning. She takes care of her own horse, gets it ready herself. She truly lives horses."

"The biggest thing we've worked on is getting her diagonals on her own at the shows. At home she's great, we just need to work on getting them under pressure at the shows."