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CHS EQUESTRIAN TEAM BACK IN THE SADDLE

Charlotte High School's Equestrian Team was reinstated this fall, with two student riders. Junior Jessie Ramos and sophomore Dalton Wertz competed in District 4 of the Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association. One hundred student equestrians from Eaton, Ingham, Clinton and Ionia counties gathered at Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason for three meets during the month of September. Jessie and Dalton showed in nearly 50 classes combined, during the three meets, where points were awarded based on how they placed.



Jessie, who has been part of an equestrian team for six years, stated that the high school competitors, coaches and families are eager to help everyone else out and that sportsmanship is highly regarded within MIHA. "I am hopeful next year, more riders can be recruited for our CHS team," stated Jessie. "I thought this season was very good, and I'm proud of how it went." She and her Buckskin gelding, Stetson, showed both English and Western during the meets, where she placed 1st in four events. Jessie is also part of an Ingham County 4-H club where's she's been showing for the past seven years.

Dalton, who has been part of the Eaton County 4-H program said that the equestrian team is similar to 4-H, but earning points definitely raises the bar for competition. "This is my first year as an equestrian team member, and I had a lot of fun and I wish the season were longer." "In 4-H, the members of my club compete separately in events, but the equestrian team is an environment where we are trying to make it together as a team." Dalton and her Quarter

Horse, Paige, showed in Western and Gymkhana classes, where she had several overall fastest times in poles, barrels, and flags. Dalton placed 1st in six events.

The team is coached by Monique Colizzi, CHS high school teacher and 4-H leader, Bethany Rankin is the team's assistant coach (CHS graduate 2011), and parent volunteers are Amy Ramos and Becky Wertz-Dahlgren. Congratulations team! We look forward to your continued success.