



MAINE VIRTUAL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER



November 1, 2022

Issue 2

Dr. Melinda Browne Head of School

Thank you to everyone who participated in our fall administration of the NWEAs. Your participation allows us to personalize your learning plan to your specific needs. Great job everybody!

Do you have any barriers to learning? A barrier is anything that prevents the learner from being fully engaged. We are here to help. Please contact your guidance counselor, **Ms. Tyler** (A-K) or **Mr. Pierce** (L-Z), and let them know what's going on. We can set up team meetings, establish goals, and help work through challenges.

We also offer students assistance with organization, assignments, connecting with teachers, etc. Our middle school students may have daily support sessions with teachers, and access to a supported study hall with **Ms. Lisa Bernardini**.

Supported Study Hall for 8th grade meets at 2pm on Thursdays and 7th grade meets at 2pm on Fridays. Contact your guidance counselor if you want your student to have access to this helpful resource. The daily **HELPDesk** is available to high school students, Monday through Friday, 2:00 - 2:50pm. **HELPDesk** is a great opportunity to receive on-demand tutoring in any subject, including self-paced courses.

We want to celebrate students' strengths and inspire positive activities and growth. We believe in you and encourage our students to take advantage of all that MEVA has to offer.

Important Dates

- November 10 ASYNC School Day
- NWEA Winter Testing Grades 7-11
- Virtual Testing January 10, 11 and 12
- Virtual Makeup Day January 13

- End of Semester 1 January 12
- Semester 2 begins January 13

- **School Holidays**
- November 11 Veterans' Day
- November 23 - 25 Thanksgiving Vacation
- December 22 - January 1 Winter Break
- January 2 New Year's Day (Observed)
- January 16 Martin Luther King Day

ASYNC Day

November 10th will be an asynchronous school day for all grades as our teachers engage in a workshop day. Teachers will provide you with the assignments and work that you should complete on this day. November 10th is a school day and you are still expected to log into your classes in Brightspace and complete your assignments.

If you have any questions please reach out to your individual teachers or **Mr. Fournier**.

MEVA's Self-Paced Courses

Self-paced courses allow students to work through the same content that they would in a live course, but at their own pace and on their own time. Students who are self-motivated, working, or prefer to take ownership of their education can benefit from engaging in self-paced courses. Self-paced courses are not open to every student, check with your school counselor if you are interested.

Vision Screening & Resources

The MDOE requires schools to conduct vision screenings and/or refer students to vision screenings who are in grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. MEVA audits students in the 7th and 9th grades to ensure screenings were conducted either in the previous school or by private effort. You may have received a letter from the Registrar earlier in the year, asking you to provide information surrounding your student's vision screenings. If your student is overdue for a vision screening and/or you need financial assistance to cover glasses, there are many programs that can help! See below for resources that can help you based on your income.

1. Students who qualify for MaineCare can have their exam covered and glasses covered in full, under the age of 21.
2. Greater Portland Community Health System
<https://www.greaterportlandhealth.org/about>
3. Portland Community Free Clinic
<https://pcfcme.com/>
4. Maine Lions Club services a variety of areas throughout the State of Maine for eyecare/glasses assistance. Click the link to apply or request assistance
<https://www.mainelions.org/mlshf>
5. Additional programs or companies that support low cost or free eyecare are also listed on this site
<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/healthy-vision/get-free-or-low-cost-eye-care>

NWEA Winter Dates

The winter administration of the NWEA will be held on January 10-12 with a makeup day on the 13th. It is very important that you complete the NWEA tests as they help to inform your learning plan for the spring. If you have any questions please reach out to **Mrs. O'Grady** or **Mr. Fournier**.



Transcript Requests

Transcripts are often needed for college and technical school applications, sports, military and employment. Maybe you just want a copy for your records. Please make requests using this link:

<https://forms.gle/DvvarTV4odM2iRXA7>.

We can respond to your request usually before the end of the next business day.

Brightspace

Reminder to parents and students – Don't forget to visit our Parent/Student Corner and/or Brightspace Resources if you have any questions concerning Brightspace or our many supportive software programs. This resource is available to you throughout the year and is a good way to get a refresher on all things MEVA.



UMS Early College Mentorship

Let's Get Ready and Early College have partnered up to provide FREE near-peer virtual mentorship to students as they apply and enroll in college. The mentors are highly trained college students who are supported by professional staff.

Let's Get Ready is predominantly text based; students choose how often they interact with the texts. Some students text daily and some only want to-do reminders. It's up to the student.

There are still some openings for high school seniors who may need additional support. If you are interested, UMS Early College has graciously agreed to sponsor them. Students can enroll at www.letsgetready.org.

Free College

High school graduates from the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 all qualify for a Free College Scholarship that pays 100% of tuition and mandatory fees for up to two years! To qualify students must:

- Enroll full time.
- Pursue a degree or academic credential.
- Live in Maine while enrolled.

There are no income or age limits. Just apply to one of Maine's seven community colleges. It can even be processed over the phone or by Zoom.

Visit mccs.me.edu/our-colleges for more information.



STAFF PETS

Posie



Special Education Secretary, Gina Davis has a Dunkin' buddy.

Ellie, Kona & Shelby



Program Manager of Operations, Stephanie Emery's babies are cuddle bugs.

Summer



Registrar, Meghan Crosby's pup looks innocent but likes to spy on the neighbors.



CREATIVE WRITING

Dog Tags and Silver Chain

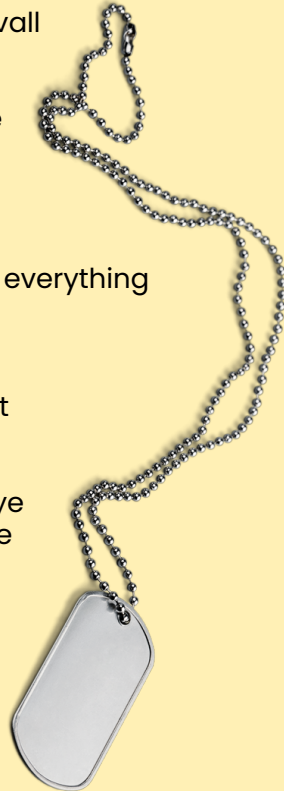
By Tito & Amelia (Serenity) Duvall

Been waiting for awhile
We knew this day would come
Outside you show a smile
Hearts beatin like a drum
Your eyes so bright
I'm not coming back tonight
Promise me that when you go everything
will be alright

You the reason that I fight
From morning, noon, and night
Tearful eyes and blurry sight
Memories up in my mind
Hate the night we said goodbye
In my heart that's where you lie
You my star call you starlight
You always be by my side

Walkin down the path
And neither are the same
Dog tag and silver chain
Pray to God to keep me sane
None of us to blame
Even when your gone my voice whispers
your name
Calling out in pain

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Dog tags, a silver chain
Pray to God he keeps me sane
None of us to blame
Even when your gone my voice whispers
your name

Give it all I got
Give it everything I have
Giving you my trust
I told you bring it right back

Don't be gone for too long
I promise you I will be strong
Packin up and carry on

In the dark we lay
Not one thought of you
On delay
Come home safe
So tonight I pray

I know I cannot stay
Darlin I pray
You don't sleep tonight
With dog tags and a silver chain



Newsletter Ideas

Please submit newsletter ideas and events to Stephanie Carter, Guidance Secretary
SCarter@MaineVirtualAcademy.org
