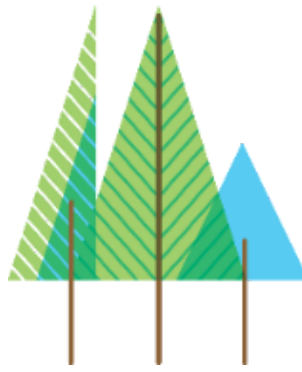


SY23-24
Issue 1
August 1, 2023



MAINE

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

DR. MELINDA BROWNE

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to MEVA school year 2023-2024, our ninth operating year since we opened our virtual doors in fall 2015. We value your participation and plan to enlist your help along the way towards conducting our mission and vision. As active parents/Learning Coaches and students, you can give back by completing all the tasks we ask you to do, including the Family Income Form, school climate surveys, and school/state testing. All these things positively affect our funding, and our ability to continue providing our families and students with the best possible service and support.

Speaking of service and support, MEVA prioritizes delivering high quality instruction by offering customized course options that meet our students' needs. We enjoy collaborating directly with you to make MEVA a great fit. Our 'secret sauce' is the constant attention that we pay to our students' academic progress, and the strong effort we employ to involve parents/Learning Coaches through regular team meetings and other outreach communications. That said, please do not hesitate to request a time to speak with us by emailing the **Guidance Department**; we are here to help.

New families will engage in onboarding sessions prior to our first day of classes (August 28th). However, you may begin familiarizing yourselves with MEVA's virtual model by reviewing this newsletter and preparing your students' learning environment. We are happy to give advice about how to set the stage for virtual learning success.

IMPORTANT DATES

- August 11: SY22-23 Self Paced Classes Close; Summer School Ends
- August 24: New Student Orientation at 12 noon or 6 pm
- August 28: First Day of SY23-24
- August 28, 2023 - January 11, 2024: Semester 1
- August 30: New Student Orientation at 12 noon - Makeup
- September 11-15 Fall Virtual NWEAs & Virtual ACCUPLACER Testing
- October 2-27 In-Person MEAs

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- September 4: Labor Day
- October 6: School Holiday
- October 9: Indigenous Peoples' Day
- November 11: Veterans' Day
Observed November 10
- November 22-24: Thanksgiving Vacation

MEVA'S MISSION STATEMENT

Maine Virtual Academy's (MEVA) mission is to develop each student's full potential with learner-centered instruction, research-based curriculum and educational tools and resources to provide a high-quality learning experience for grade 7-12 students who are in need of alternative educational options. MEVA will develop an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) with specific learning goals to meet each student's needs.

MEVA's rigorous curriculum is aligned to the eight Maine content areas, the Maine Learning Results, the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards.



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

On Thursday, August 24th we will be having two New Student Orientation sessions via Zoom. Session times will be at noon and 6 pm. Attendance is mandatory for all new students and their Learning Coaches. We will be going over MEVA policies and navigation of the platform. The Zoom link will be sent out by email the week before orientation. For any families not able to make it on the 24th, we will be having a make up session on Wednesday August 30th at noon.



SUCCESSFUL LEARNING SPACES

It is important to have a dedicated workspace set up for your student and a strong internet connection. When figuring out the best location to set up your learning space, consider the following:

- Find an appropriate spot in your home. How is the lighting? Is there enough space for schooling? Consider the furniture placement. Ensure the desk or table for your student is an appropriate size, and that it is free from clutter. Make sure you have shelving and space to store learning materials.
- How is the internet connection? This is very important - your student is learning online. If you already know that your learning space has poor internet connection, move the router closer to your student's space, or find a better location.
- Are there distractions? Rooms with televisions, gaming systems, or lots of toys will make it difficult for your student to concentrate.
- Are you dressed and ready for the day? Changing into school clothes can make a big difference in your attitude. Make sure you wake up with plenty of time before school and prepare yourself for the day.
- Are you hungry? Start the day with breakfast and keep water closeby. This will help your student stay focused and hydrated while in class.

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to log into school daily. Separately, Learning Coaches MUST also log in and log attendance in order to prevent your student from being marked absent. Students are required to have 5 hours and 30 minutes of logged time per day Monday through Friday. If a student is absent they can watch the recordings over the weekend but time MUST be entered on the day missed.

For assistance with logging attendance or to report an absence, please email

Attendance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org.

BARRIERS TO LEARNING?

If you have any school issues, struggle in the virtual environment, or have barriers to learning - let us know! Please send a message to your **Guidance Counselor**, Mrs. Tyler (A-K) or Mr. Pierce (L-Z), explaining what's going on and they will set up a meeting to help chart a path to success.



LAPTOPS

Learning virtually requires a working laptop. If you are having ANY issues (hard drive failure, power issues, sticky keys, cracked screens, password, charger, not able to connect, etc.) with your MEVA issued laptop, please complete the **MEVA Laptop Tech form** for fastest assistance. We are available Monday - Friday.

MAINE BROADBAND

The Maine Connectivity Authority is developing a statewide Broadband Action Plan for Maine. Do you know what the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program is and whether you are eligible to apply? The National Digital Equity Center (NDEC) offers a one-hour live class to teach people how to apply for this very important program. Click on this [link](#) for more info or to sign up for a class.

MEVA'S VISION STATEMENT

MEVA will be a leading 21st century public charter school in Maine and will improve student learning outcomes through individualized instruction, as evidenced by student academic proficiency, student academic growth, post-secondary readiness, and the demonstration of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and self-direction. MEVA will empower students to acquire the academic and life skills needed to succeed in post-secondary education and career opportunities. Our graduates will be prepared for college or other postsecondary career training opportunities.



HS HELPDESK & MS STUDY HUB

Beginning August 28th, HS HelpDesk and MS Study Hub will go live. HS HelpDesk and MS Study Hub are where you have access to the teachers for all of your subjects. We ask questions, complete homework, and conquer missing assignments. Some students may be required to attend if your teacher(s) feels it is appropriate.

HS HelpDesk and MS Study Hub will meet Monday through Friday, 10:00-10:50am and 2:00-2:50pm.

Stay tuned for links and contact information coming in the September Newsletter.



SORA - DIGITAL LIBRARY

SORA is the student reading app for OverDrive. SORA provides access to ebooks and audiobooks from your school and public library.

- Log into your MEVA Google Account.
- Open **SORA** on your student laptop.
- Select Maine Virtual Academy.
- Sign in with your MEVA Google account.
- Save link to your desktop.



SY23-24 LANGUAGE CLASSES

Language courses offered include Spanish, French, and Language Studies. American Sign Language is a visual hands-on language class being offered to students who are comfortable on camera. We provide coaching to help ASL students become comfortable on camera. Please email your **Guidance Counselor** if you are interested in signing up.

MEVA CLUBS

During SY22-23, we offered a wide range of clubs: Animē, Chess, Coding, Creative Writing/Reading, Debate, Drama, and Gaming Prodigy. Based on student interest, we may be offering these clubs again in the 23-24 School Year. If you have different club ideas, reach out to **Mr. Fournier**.

FALL VIRTUAL NWEAS

Save the date! Grades 7-11 students will participate in the virtual NWEAs the week of September 11th. This data allows us to design a personalized learning and intervention plan for your student!

SAVE THE DATE: IN-PERSON MEA TESTING

The MEAs for Math and Reading, will be held throughout the month of October and we are currently working on reserving sites all across Maine. This State assessment is administered to all students in 7th, 8th, and 10th grade. The assessment will allow us to measure student's progress towards grade-level proficiency.

ACCUPLACER VIRTUAL TESTING

All graduating students for the school year 2023-2024 will need to complete the virtual ACCUPLACER testing. This test assesses a student's post-secondary readiness skills in reading and mathematics. The data allows us to personalize a learning plan to ensure your student is college and career ready when they graduate. *Note if a student completed the testing during the 2022-2023 school year, they do not need to take the test again unless otherwise indicated by their scores.



EARLY COLLEGE

Maine public high school students can register for 12 tuition-free college credits per year via University of Maine and Maine Community Colleges. MEVA covers the cost of the books! You get college AND high school credit! In general, students (juniors and seniors, sophomores with permission) need a 2.7 GPA to qualify. Please email your **Guidance Counselor** if you are interested.

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. Check with your **Guidance Counselor** if you are interested in enrolling.

EXTERNAL CREDIT

Are you working or volunteering? Do you have extensive experience outside of school? Your hard work may qualify as credit! Complete the **External Credit Form** for credit consideration.

FAQ

- **If I'm approved for early graduation, does that make me a senior?** No! You will graduate at your current grade level.
- **Why State Testing?** Participation contributes towards our Federal funding. Students are required to attend all virtual and in-person State testing.
- **My student attends everyday, why are you sending me attendance warnings?** Students need to log into Brightspace daily AND LCs need to log attendance daily.
- **Can I opt out of emails and voice messages?** No! Normally this information is sent home in your student's backpack but we are a virtual school - this is how we communicate with you!

MEVA CONTACTS

(207)613-8900

Emails are the swiftest way to
contact Faculty.

Head of School:

Dr. Melinda Browne
MBrowne@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Academic Administrator:

Mr. Fournier
DFournier@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Attendance: x2010

Attendance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Graduation Activities:

Mx. Castro
DCastro@MaineVirtualAcademy.org
Ms. Hamilton
CHamilton@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Guidance Department: x2003

Guidance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org
Mr. Pierce (L-Z)
DPierce@MaineVirtualAcademy.org
Mrs. Tyler (A-K)
HTyler@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Laptops: x2010

Tech@MaineVirtualAcademy.org
Call/Text 207-292-1762

Newsletter:

Mrs. Carter
SCarter@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Registrar:

Ms. Crosby x2000
MCrosby@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Special Education Department:

Ms. Vitagliano
LVitagliano@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

Transcripts are often needed for college and technical school applications, sports, military and employment. Please make requests using this [link](#).

REMINDER: NHS SCHOOLWIDE FOOD DRIVE



The National Honor Society (NHS) is hosting a schoolwide food drive. We are asking that each able student donate to a local facility that allows food donations. If you are able to do this, please fill out this [Donation Log](#) after each donation! If you plan on making multiple donations at different times you can complete more than one form. The grade and student with the most donations by the end of the summer will be highlighted in the MEVA Newsletter. That being said, the food drive is about giving back to the community!

T-SHIRTS & HOODIES

You can purchase MEVA T-shirts at this [link](#) and hoodies [here](#).

NEWSLETTER

Please vote for your student, teacher and staff member of the month [here](#). Results will be announced in the October newsletter. To submit your pet photos, shoutouts and newsletter ideas for the September newsletter, please email [Mrs. Carter](#) before August 18th.