

**SY23-24**  
**Issue 2**  
**September 1, 2023**



# MAINE

## VIRTUAL ACADEMY

### NEWSLETTER

## DR. MELINDA BROWNE HEAD OF SCHOOL

We are proud of MEVA's excellent service and expansive course selection that we offer our students and their families. However, the unsung heroes of our virtual educational program – we do not want you to miss – are weekly, grade-level advisory groups (i.e., home rooms) that inform students and connect them to their teachers and peers in a fun, social setting. Short advisory group lessons cover twenty-first century skills, such as collaboration, communication, technology literacy, initiative, and time management, which target career readiness, preparing our students for life after high school. We award credit for students' participation in these activities.

MEVA's courses, including advisories, are designed by our talented teachers, who are continuously innovating and improving their content, based on students' outcomes and stakeholder feedback. One notable innovation is the self-paced versions of core academic, high school, courses that are used by students needing credit recovery and/or advancement opportunities. Self-paced courses utilize a build-your-own-grade approach and a longer window to complete the required academic standards. Please reach out to your [Guidance Counselor](#) if you would like more information about MEVA's annual self-paced course offerings.

Finally, we define excellent service at MEVA as meeting our students and families where they are and providing the support necessary for them to thrive in our school community. That said, please do not hesitate to request a team meeting if you would like to share vital details about your needs; we are here to help.

### 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



### IMPORTANT DATES

- Semester 1: August 28, 2023 - January 11, 2024
- September 11-15 Fall Virtual NWEAs
- October 2-27 In-Person MEAs

## INTRODUCING CHILD FIND PROGRAM

Parents, your concerns are important to us. If you are noticing any challenges or slow progress in your student's educational journey, we are here to help. Our Child Find Program is designed to identify and address learning difficulties and interfering factors, ensuring that each learner receives the right support and assistance. Reach out to Lena Vitagliano, Special Education Administrator, by emailing [Lvitagliano@mainevirtualacademy.org](mailto:Lvitagliano@mainevirtualacademy.org) or calling/texting 603-785-2021, to discuss your child's needs and take the first step towards unlocking their full potential. Together, we can pave the way for your child's success!

## ADVISORY

Advisory sessions at MEVA are an essential part of the curriculum. Students are required and encouraged to attend the weekly sessions. Students will explore a variety of topics related to life skills, college and career readiness, and twenty-first century thinking. Students will earn credit (pass/fail) for their active participation in advisory. Advisory is an opportunity for students to connect with their peers, their school community, and their teachers. **Middle school meets Mondays at 10:30am; high school meets Mondays at 1:00pm.** For more information you can reach out to Mrs. O'Grady at [cogrady@mainevirtualacademy.org](mailto:cogrady@mainevirtualacademy.org).



## INNOVATIVE NEW GRADING POLICY

MEVA strives to continue to innovate, putting our students' best interests first and foremost. For SY23-24, some of our teachers are piloting an innovative new grading policy. The policy allows you, the student, to build your grade! The way this looks is that every student starts with 0 points; as you complete assignments and they're graded, your point total will increase. One of the biggest benefits of this way of grading is that your grade will never decrease; it only has the opportunity to increase as you complete assignments, building knowledge, mastery, and skills. With any changes, questions arise, please reach out to your teachers to explain their policy to you. If you still have questions, you can contact [Mr. Fournier](#) or [Mrs. O'Grady](#).

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The MEVA Chapter of the National Honor Society is excited to begin a new year! Students with a 3.0 GPA or higher who also demonstrate Character, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service are welcome to apply. Please keep an eye out for more information this Fall.

## 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 for your student to ensure they are 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. Students need a valid ID to complete ACCUPLACER. If your student does not have an ID, please contact **Mrs. O'Grady**.

## 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 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.

## SY23-24 LANGUAGE UPDATE

Spanish, French, Language Studies and American Sign Language (ASL) are the language courses being offered for the Fall. We provide coaching to help students become comfortable on camera, which is an important twenty-first century skill. If interested, contact your **Guidance Counselor**.

## HELPODESK

How can HelpDesk help you?

HelpDesk provides you with a direct line to your teachers across all subjects. At HelpDesk, you can inquire about doubts, fulfill your homework requirements, and triumph over any outstanding assignments. Your teachers are readily available to aid you, and there might be instances where your teacher(s) recommend your attendance for additional support. We wholeheartedly invite you to join us and unlock your true potential!

HelpDesk meets Everyday  
10:30am-11:20am  
2:00pm-2:50pm

For more information please check the HelpDesk content called Students Corner.

[nhart@mainevirtualacademy.org](mailto:nhart@mainevirtualacademy.org)



## MS STUDY HUB

Study Hub is the middle school version of the high school HelpDesk. It is a place to work on class assignments, get help from teachers or other students, or be a place to sit with others to get whatever you need done.

Study Hub meets  
Tuesday - Friday  
10:30am-11:20am  
2:00pm-2:50pm

For more information  
please check the Study  
Hub content called  
Students Corner.

[nsherwood@mainevirtu  
alacademy.org](mailto:nsherwood@mainevirtu<br/>alacademy.org)



## MEVA CLUBS

MEVA students are able to join after-school clubs presented at 3:00pm throughout the week except for Mondays, when our whole staff meets together. You will be receiving a form to see which clubs you are interested in after Labor Day weekend to help us match up interested teachers. Stay tuned!

## EARLY OR CONCURRENT COLLEGE

Registration for Fall 2023 Early College Courses at Maine Community Colleges and University of Maine System colleges is now open! High school students may take up to 12 credit hours for free each year, including during the summer. MEVA covers the cost of books too! Students need a 2.7 GPA to qualify. You get high school AND college credit! Search and apply for classes at Maine Community Colleges here: [On Course for College](#) and classes at University of Maine System Colleges here: [ExplorEC](#).

## G&T ARTISTS

Calling all Students! We are actively looking for those that are interested and committed to furthering their skills in Art! Students who are committed to learning and exploring art in depth are welcome to apply for the Gifted and Talented program, aka GT Art. We will be meeting each Wednesday at 2pm. Please Email [Ms. Uth](#) and [Ms. Samson](#) if interested.

## NEW TEACHERS

Welcome New Teachers!

- Melissa Dubovik is joining our Math Department and will be teaching Geometry.
- Nicholas Sherwood is joining our Science Department and will be assisting in Earth Science.
- Jennifer McNally and Caroline Peinado will be joining our Special Education Department.



## TEACHER FEATURE



Hi, my name is Zach Campbell. I am 29 years old and currently reside in the Waterville area. I started in October of 2019. At MEVA I teach Civics, Modern World History, Maine History, and US History with the RISE program. I've taught Sociology in the past and co-taught Geography and Personal Finance. I run the Debate Club and recently we've started a Chess Club here at MEVA. I'm very much looking forward to the students returning for another wonderful school year.

Q: What did you do this summer? I spent a lot of this summer playing chess. I gained a few hundred ELO points, got involved with the Waterville chess club, and I gained a provisional rating with the United States Chess Federation. I spent a lot of time with my partner, as well as our four animals. We have two cats and two reptiles. Some of my other interests include hiking, reading, playing video games, and hanging out with friends.

## GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

We have reassigned the Guidance Department as follows: **Mrs. Tyler** will work with 10-12 Graders and **Mr. Pierce** will cover 7-9 Graders. Please email them if you have any questions.

## SORA - DIGITAL LIBRARY

SORA is the student reading app for OverDrive. SORA provides access to ebooks and audiobooks from your school and public library. Use this [link](#) to view the tutorial.

- Download **SORA** to device of choice
- Click on "I have a setup code"
- Enter: meva
- Click "Get Started"
- Sign in with your MEVA Google account



## NEWSLETTER

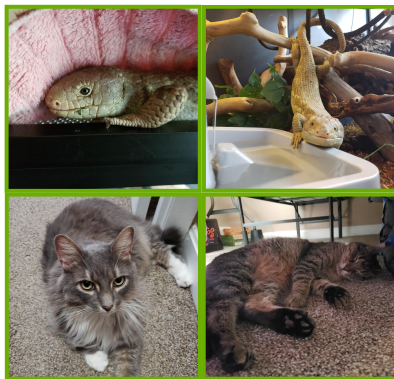
Please vote for your student, teacher and staff member of the month [here](#). Results will be announced in the October newsletter. To submit your pet photos, shoutouts and newsletter ideas for the newsletter, please email **Mrs. Carter** before September 15th.

## STUDENT FEATURE



Hi, my name is Brittany Bragg and I am a senior this year. I have been at MEVA since freshman year. Sports have been a big part of my life so when I came to MEVA I was a little worried I would lose those privileges. Luckily, most schools let you play as long as you live in their town. All it took was an email to the athletic director. This summer, I've played coed softball and summer soccer. Currently, I am a senior captain and the starting goalkeeper for Fort Fairfield MHS. Sports are definitely an option for kids at MEVA.

The teachers are amazing. The biggest advice I would give for returning students as well as new students is to take risks whether it be a hard class or even a college course, push yourself. Also never be afraid to reach out for help, the students and staff are amazing here and everyone is willing to go the extra mile to help you. Lastly, save some time for yourself, take a break if you need to, I typically vent through art.



Mr. Campbell's pets: a skink named Noodle, a bearded dragon named Kahlo, and 2 cats named Mandy and Gizmo.

Daisy



Brittany Bragg's outdoor buddy.



## MEVA CONTACTS

Use these emails for a quick response to your questions:

[Attendance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org](mailto:Attendance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org) \* [Guidance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org](mailto:Guidance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org)  
[Tech@MaineVirtualAcademy.org](mailto:Tech@MaineVirtualAcademy.org)