

**SY23-24**  
**Issue 6**  
**January 1, 2024**



# MAINE VIRTUAL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

## **DR. MELINDA BROWNE HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Do you attend Help Desk or Study Hub? If so, good for you. If not, what is holding you back? Help Desk and Study Hub supply on-demand support in any subject, morning, and afternoon. All MEVA students are invited to attend, so the session links are on your Brightspace schedules. Please take advantage of this amazing opportunity that supplements course-specific small group help sessions and in-class activities. The entire MEVA faculty thanks you for your participation. With the transition between semesters, and the Winter NWEAS, January is a terribly busy month, but Help Desk and Study Hub can make an enormous difference.

Mark your calendars for the Virtual Winter NWEAs (MAP Growth) scheduled for January 9th, 10th, and 11th, for all students in grades 7 – 11. Grade-level advisors will administer this important assessment virtually. We will mail home students' score reports with the semester-1 grade reports. We look forward to celebrating your fall to winter growth in math, reading, and language usage. We appreciate your effort to do your absolute best!

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

- January 15: Martin Luther King Day
- February 14-21: Winter break



### **LAST DAY TO TURN IN WORK FOR SEMESTER 1**

- January 5- End of day

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Semester 1: August 28, 2023 - January 11, 2024
- January 9-11: Winter NWEA, Grades 7-11

## STUDENT HELP

HS HelpDesk and MS Study Hub provides you with a direct line to your teachers across all subjects. They are readily available to assist you with questions, homework, concepts, and concerns.

**HS HelpDesk** meets everyday from 10:30am-11:20am and 2:00pm-2:50pm

**MS Study Hub** meets Tuesdays - Fridays from 10:30am-11:20am and everyday 2:00pm-2:50pm

For more information please check the Students Corner in Brightspace or contact:

**HS HelpDesk - Ms. Hart**

**MS Study Hub - Mr. Sherwood**

## RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

MEVA has partnered with The Cook Center for Human Connection and Parentguidance.org to provide you free individualized “coaching/counseling” services for you and your family this school year. Please visit <https://parentguidance.org/> to explore the resources available to you.

Also, the Cook Center will be featuring a free mental health workshop every month, that you are welcome to attend. The school newsletter will announce the topic being featured each month along with the links and times these live sessions will be held.

Mental Health Workshop Features:

1. **January 8th** - Your Child’s Anxiety – 01/8/2024 at 6:30pm, the Cook Center will discuss strategies to help parents respond to their child’s anxiety. Register now:

<https://cookcenter.info/Jan8MEVA>

2. **February 5th** - “School Avoidance” - 2/5/24 - 6:30 pm, , the Cook Center will discuss strategies to help parents reduce school avoidance. Register now:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TOYlhgZBTe-URpkHGY-zQA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TOYlhgZBTe-URpkHGY-zQA#/registration)

## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Did you know that you **may** qualify for a monthly internet credit of up to \$30 through the ACP?

You may qualify if you meet the following terms: You, or your child or dependent are enrolled in government programs like Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, or others, or, based on your household income

What are the program benefits?

- Wifi Service discount up to \$30/month
- Device discount up to \$100 for a qualifying device.

**Please note: this is not a MEVA sponsored program, we are just passing along helpful information.**



# FAFSA

## ATTENTION ALL MEVA SENIORS/EARLY GRADUATES AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS!!!

FAFSA Help Session for MEVA Families!

FAME (Finance Authority of Maine) will be available via Zoom to work with you on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You are required to complete the FAFSA in order to take advantage of the free tuition at Maine Community Colleges. If you're applying to college you won't want to miss this!

Tuesday, January 9 at 5:00pm via Zoom <https://famemaine.zoom.us/j/88501039247>

More information can be found [here](#).

# SENIORS AND EARLY GRADS

If you are graduating early, please remember to complete your page in the yearbook before the last day of the semester. Stop by the Help Desk at 10:30 or 2 p.m. to get help from a teacher.

Graduation Activities Club meets on Thursdays at 2 p.m. Come work on SWAG and Yearbook!

START HERE! Create your Yearbook Slide in Canva: <https://youtu.be/FSS5Xo6I7M8>

Yearbook template:

<https://www.canva.com/design/DAFyeonxJDk/Hv2ppeFxa9YvdTMXceixkw/edit>

If you would prefer to have help creating an individual page in the yearbook email Mx. Castro, [dcastro@mainevirtualacemy.org](mailto:dcastro@mainevirtualacemy.org) with the following information: First and Last Name, Year you joined MEVA, Home Town, Hobbies, Favorite Subject, Plans After High School, and Favorite Quote.

PURCHASE MEVA Staff and Student t-shirts, [HERE!](#) Orders ship directly to your home. Proceeds will go towards a class gift for the graduating class of 2024.

## 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)

To submit your pet photos, shoutouts and newsletter ideas for the newsletter, please email the [Newsletter](#).



## TEACHER FEATURE

Lauren Sroka

### Middle School English



#### Working at MEVA:

I am a MS English teacher at MEVA and have enjoyed watching our students grow into hard working, confident learners. I've been a MS English teacher for over 15 years and am working towards a Masters degree in Literacy. I hope to use my experience and knowledge to make a most excellent learning experience for all my students.

#### Fun Facts about me:

My favorite things to do in my down time are snack and nap. With that comes cooking new and delicious recipes and keeping a comfortable home. I have two cats that make me laugh with their silly antics and a daughter that helps keep my mind sharp as a tack.



## STUDENT FEATURE

Hi! My name is Abigail (Abbey) Gilley. This is my first year with MEVA and I am an eighth grader. I do strive for good grades and a bit of a challenge, so I am enjoying this version of online learning and looking forward to the months ahead.

Outside of school I love running long distance - such as track, cross country and road races. I also am excited about ultra running (logging in as many miles in a set amount of time). One of my goals is to be the youngest to run an Ultra on every continent. I'd better get busy!

Fun Fact: I LOVE crazy hair styles!

### Abigail Gilley, Class of 2028

