

**SY23-24**  
**Issue 8**  
**March 1, 2024**



# MAINE VIRTUAL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

## **-ESSA DASHBOARD-**

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

We are pleased to announce that the ESSA Dashboard for school year 2022-2023 is available for public view. In accordance with ESEA Program Assurances, Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) disseminates ESEA and LEA Report Cards via the school's websites. Please find the link below that will prompt you to select a Maine school district. You will find Maine Virtual Academy on the drop-down menu using the [link](https://www.maine.gov/doe/dashboard), <https://www.maine.gov/doe/dashboard>

The SY-2022/2023 ESSA Dashboard indicates that MEVA's strengths are our expanding Teacher Workforce and Instructional Support Staff (Ed Techs). MEVA's attendance, safety, and graduation rates are also noteworthy for our virtual school. As a high-performing public charter school, MEVA is engaged in continuous school improvement, informed by feedback from our stakeholders. We are focusing on strengthening our state assessment outcomes by providing families and students with individual support. We are extremely proud of our 95% participation rate (Spring 2023 math and reading) for grades 7, 8 & 10 combined.

As MEVA families and students your feedback is extremely important to realizing our mission and vision. Later this month, we will send you the Spring 2024 Panorama School Climate Survey that will collect your opinions about how well we are serving your needs. We take this information into account with respect to planning our programming and practices. A huge thank you in advance for your time to complete the surveys, which we expect to release on March 25th, 2024. Stay tuned for reminders.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance and/or would like to schedule a team meeting. We are all here to help!

#### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

- Vacation day: March 15th



#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Semester 2: January 12th - June 14th
- Re-Registration portal opens February 26
- March 4: Cook Center Supporting your child after Trauma.

Use these emails for a quick response to your questions:

[Attendance](#)

[Guidance](#)

[Tech](#)

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

# MEVA MISSION AND VISION 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. MEVA will demand the highest level of accountability from our Maine-certified teachers, our educational management system and our nationally recognized provider of educational services. The MEVA Board will contract with Stride K12 for educational products and selected support services.

## RE-REGISTRATION

Re-Registration is opening soon for the 2024-2025 School Year! MEVA's annual Re-Registration period starts on February 26th. Reminder – all current MEVA students must be re-registered each year in order to keep your place. Students are not automatically re-enrolled unless you complete the "Commitment to Enroll Form".

Keep a look out for school communications that will be sent to you soon. These communications will provide you with details on Portal open dates, Open House, Re-Registration Help Sessions, Course Information and Step-by-Step info on how to complete your Re-Registration for fall. Seats will only be open to returning families for a short period of time, before seats are open to the public. We look forward to having you back again next school year!

## 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.

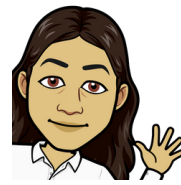
Also, the Cook Center will be featuring a free mental health workshop every month, that you are welcome to attend. The school newsletter will announce the topic being featured each month along with the links and times these live sessions will be held.

Mental Health Workshop Features:

1. **March 4th** - "Supporting your Child After Trauma" - 3/4/24 - 6:30pm, the Cook Center will discuss how to best support your child after trauma. To register, please click this [link](#)
2. **April 1st** - "Building your Child's Confidence" - 4/1/24 - 6:30pm, the Cook Center will discuss how to build your child's confidence. To register, please click this [link](#)



# STUDENT HELP



hey.



Dear Students,

It's hard to believe we're already well into Semester 2! As we navigate the remainder of academic year, we want to highlight the incredible resources available to you through HelpDesk and StudyHub.

HelpDesk and StudyHub aren't just places to seek assistance; they're vibrant spaces where you can connect with peers, mentors, and resources throughout your day. Whether you need help organizing homework, navigating Brightspace (our learning management system), or requiring on-demand tutoring in specific subjects, HelpDesk and StudyHub have you covered!

Here's what you can look forward to:

- **Homework Organizers:** Need help keeping track of assignments and deadlines? Our teams at HelpDesk and StudyHub provide valuable tools and strategies to help you stay organized and on top of your workload.
- **Brightspace Navigation Support:** Navigating online platforms can sometimes be tricky. At HelpDesk and StudyHub, we offer guidance and support to ensure you can effectively navigate MEVA and make the most out of its features for your learning experience.
- **On-Demand Tutoring:** Whether it's math, science, language arts, social studies, or any other subject, our on-demand tutoring service puts you in the driver's seat. You can request help in the areas you need most, empowering you to take charge of your learning journey.

Remember, each week you attend either HelpDesk or StudyHub, you'll receive a special Attendance award. Studies have shown that students who attend and actively engage at HelpDesk and StudyHub at least ten times throughout the semester typically finish with grades five points higher than their peers who do not attend regularly. How exciting is that?

Furthermore, we understand that sometimes, academic concerns extend beyond the classroom. We're also here to help you connect with your guidance counselors. Whether you're seeking academic advice, career guidance, or personal support, our team can assist you in scheduling appointments and navigating resources available through our counseling services.

So, why not make the most of HelpDesk and StudyHub this semester? We're here to support you every step of the way and help you reach your academic goals.

See you at HelpDesk!

Ms. Hart & Mr. Sherwood



# 2024 MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP ONLINE APPLICATION

**The 2024 Mitchell Scholarship online application is now open until April 1!**

**News for the 2024 Mitchell Scholarship application season!**

In addition to our longstanding commitment of awarding at least one \$10,000 scholarship annually to a graduating student from each of the 134 public high schools in Maine, we are excited to share that we will award 40 additional scholarships across the state in 2024, bringing our annual total to \$1.74M in support for the class of 2024 Mitchell Scholars.

We hope to have at least five applicants from each school, and we rely on your support to promote the scholarship to college-bound students who would most benefit from our scholarship and programs. At times, we hear that some students do not apply because they believe that only students at the top of the class will be selected—but that is not the case! The selection committee considers all available information in evaluating candidates and aims to choose the student for whom our financial and programmatic support would make the biggest impact.

Additional information about our scholarship and programs can be found on the [Mitchell Institute website](#). To learn more about our work and Mitchell Scholar recipients, we invite you to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter: [The Mitchell Institute Update](#).

## SENIORS AND EARLY GRADS

- Our graduation ceremony will be a Live Zoom ceremony held at 2 p.m. on June 7th.
- Please stay tuned for emails with more information about the day.
- To purchase a matching gown [click here](#). We recommend the matte gown in emerald green.
- To order a class ring from Jostens, [click here!](#) You will need to set up an account.
- The yearbook will be available for sale in the spring, and turned into a video for our graduation ceremony!
- Create an Individual Yearbook Page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSS5Xo6I7M8>
- 2024 Yearbook Template: <https://www.canva.com/design/DAFyeonxJDk/Hv2ppeFxa9YvdTMXceixkw/edit>
- If you would like help creating your yearbook page, please email [dcastro@mainevirtualacademy.org](mailto:dcastro@mainevirtualacademy.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.
- **ALL SUBMISSIONS to the YEARBOOK are DUE by March 1st!**
- Purchase MEVA GRAD. SWAG Hoodies and T-Shirts, [HERE!](#) Orders ship directly to your home. This is a fundraiser to earn money for a class gift for the graduates to be included with their graduation mailing in mid-May, such as a key chain and stickers with the student designed mascot.

## TEACHER FEATURE

### Carlotta Thompson English Teacher

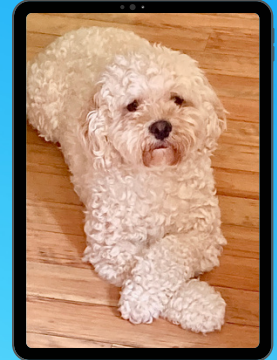


#### Working at MEVA:

Hi Everyone! I love teaching. I have taught for quite a few years at public, private and behavioral institutions. Teaching is an integral part of my life.

#### Fun Facts about me:

My hobbies are reading inspirational texts, spending time with my family and dog, gardening and biking & taking part in yoga classes when I can.



## STUDENT FEATURE

### Iris Ouellet Class of 2026

This is Iris' first year at MEVA, and she is a sophomore. Iris loves learning, and she especially enjoys her English and science classes. She also is thrilled to have been accepted into the National Honor Society (NHS) this year! Iris has been volunteering at a local food pantry as her service component of NHS and is looking forward to helping the pantry with their garden this spring. She may also be able to job shadow in her local hospital laboratory, and she is considering a future career as a scientist. Outside of school, Iris is a voracious reader, particularly fantasy books. Her favorite author is Sarah J. Maas. For her birthday in March, Iris has asked for a book cart for her room, as she has too many books to fit on her bookshelf! Iris also is committed to personal fitness and healthy eating. Japanese cuisine, especially sushi and rice bowls, are favorite foods, and she likes to research recipes to make them at home. She also enjoys spending time with her family and pets - two cats (Winnie and Guy) and one dog (Nova). Iris and her dad take daily dog walks around town, and in nice weather, Iris and her family enjoy trying new trails and hikes locally and in new places.

