

SY23-24
Issue 9
April 1, 2024



MAINE

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

DR. MELINDA BROWNE

HEAD OF SCHOOL

MEVA is planning our summer 2024 programming that is open to continuing students in grades 7-11. We are offering:

- Enrichment in math and English to build students' skills.
- Self-paced courses for advancement and credit recovery.
- Credits for Work Study, Volunteering, and Individual Projects.

We will reach out with our recommendations, based on students' academic progress. However, please feel free to contact your guidance counselor, guidance@mainevirtualacademy.org, if you have any questions.

Families and students have access to the Spring '24 Panorama School Climate Survey on or near March 25th. We greatly appreciate your time and effort to share your feedback. MEVA takes the results of this annual, schoolwide event to heart, and we do adjust our practices to suit! Many thanks for your participation!

Finally, please do not hesitate to request a team meeting if you would like to discuss your students' programming. We collaborate with dozens of families each week. As always, we are happy to help!

Requesting Feedback for MEVA's FY25 ESEA Grant Application.
What are MEVA's needs? Email
MBrowne@mainevirtualacademy.org

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- April Vacation: April 12th-19th



IMPORTANT DATES

- Semester 2: January 12th - June 14th
- April 1st - Cook Center - Building your Child's Confidence @ 6:30pm

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.

MEVA SCIENCE FAIR



Thank you to all our students who participated in the 5th Annual Virtual Science Fair at Maine Virtual Academy! We appreciate your hard work and dedication to exploring science outside the classroom. If you missed the science fair, watch the recording using the link and password below. You can also check out this year's and past year's projects on the MEVA Science Fair [website](#).

Recording [Link](#): Passcode: k2Xk\$@\$@

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES



MEVA has partnered with The Cook Center for Human Connection and [Parentguidance.org](https://parentguidance.org) to provide you free individualized “coaching/counseling” services for you and your family this school year. Please visit [https://parentguidance.org/](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. **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](#).
2. **May 6th** - “Everyday Happiness” - 5/6/2024 - 6:30pm, the Cook Center will be discussing everyday happiness. To register, please click this [link](#).

CLUBS AT MEVA!

Did you know MEVA has a whole host of different clubs? These can greatly increase your MEVA experience and great ways to socialize!

To sign up email [Mr. Fournier](mailto:Mr.Fournier)! Here is the weekly club schedule:

Monday - no clubs due to faculty meeting

Tuesday - Anime / Chess (ASL beginning on 1/30/2024!!!)

Wednesday - no clubs (faculty department meetings)

Thursday - Gaming / Prodigy / Grad Activities @ 2:00 HelpDesk

Friday - Creative Writing & Harry Potter



Anime Club

Anime, a vibrant and dynamic form of animation origination from Japan, has captured the imaginations of people worldwide with its diverse genres, compelling storytelling, and visually stunning artwork.

Our Anime Club offers students a welcoming space to explore and celebrate this unique art form. Whether you're an avid fan or new to the world of anime, our club provides a platform for members to:

- Discover New Series
- Share Passions
- Express Creativity
- Appreciate Culture

Anime Club meets every Tuesday from 3:00-4:00 PM. All students with an interest in anime are warmly invited to join us for our next meetings. No prior knowledge or experience is required—just bring your enthusiasm and an open mind!

Let's embark on this exciting journey together as we explore the colorful world of anime and foster creativity, friendship, and cultural appreciation within our school community!

Alex Campbell
Nicholas Sherwood

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.
- GRAD BOXES will be mailed out in mid-May. Each student will receive a cap, tassel and diploma cover. If you still have a MEVA issued laptop, you will receive a return label in place of the diploma. If you do not, or have already returned your laptop, you will receive your diploma in your box. NHS materials will be distributed to those who have been inducted into NHS.
- 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!
- 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.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

MEVA will be holding a Ceremony for those students getting inducted to the NHS on March 26th, 2024. Please take a moment to acknowledge these Hard Working individuals

D.Davidson, Grade 10

I.Ouellet, Grade 10

N.Sparling, Grade 10

S.Sparling, Grade 10

C.Fowler, Grade 11

E.Knowlton, Grade 11

O.Tebbets, Grade 11

SPRING TESTING: IS IT IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL?

Each Spring, the State of Maine holds two testing periods for certain grade levels. One test is the **NWEA**, which is the **VIRTUAL** test, the other is the **MEA**, which is an **IN PERSON** test. Both are **MANDATORY**, and they are within a few weeks of each other, which can cause some confusion. Please see below for more information on each test.

The Spring **NWEA** testing dates: April 30th-May2nd. This test is **VIRTUAL**, done from your laptop during class time.

It is critical to evaluate and track student learning progress, especially as we strive to fill gaps post-pandemic. The NWEAs allow us to see the growth that each individual student has made and to plan an individualized path for them the following school year. Grades 7-11 will take this test.

The Through Year Assessment (also known as the MEA) for grades 7th, 8th and 10th and MEA Science (8th and 11th only) testing dates: May 13th-17th. This test is **IN PERSON**. Each student required to test will need to make plans to travel to their specified testing site.

This assessment will allow us to measure student's progress towards grade-level proficiency.

Your specific test site will be shared with you soon, please continue to check your email regularly as we get closer for dates and directions.

VALEDICTORIAN ~ NYLEIGHA LUPERCIO



My Journey at MEVA

Hello, MEVA Foxes! My name is Nyleigha Lupercio and I am the MEVA Class of 2024 valedictorian. I cannot put into words how much it means to be named valedictorian of our graduating class. Throughout the past four years, I have formed meaningful relationships with my fellow classmates and teachers. In freshman year, I implemented and advocated for my own tutoring program called Peer Study Sessions. In addition to tutoring, I have dedicated my time to

Honors classes, Student Council, Student Leadership Club, National Honor Society (NHS), 8th Grade Step-Up Info Session, Peer Editing, MEVA Movie Night, Honors English Foundations II (Group Leader), Language Study Show and Tell Day, Early College courses, and volunteer projects throughout my local community. This year, I am honored to serve as the President of National Honor Society.

Plans After High School

Following graduation, I will pursue a major in biology on the pre-medicine track at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. My dream is to become a general surgeon and assist others by performing surgical procedures.

Advice to MEVA Students

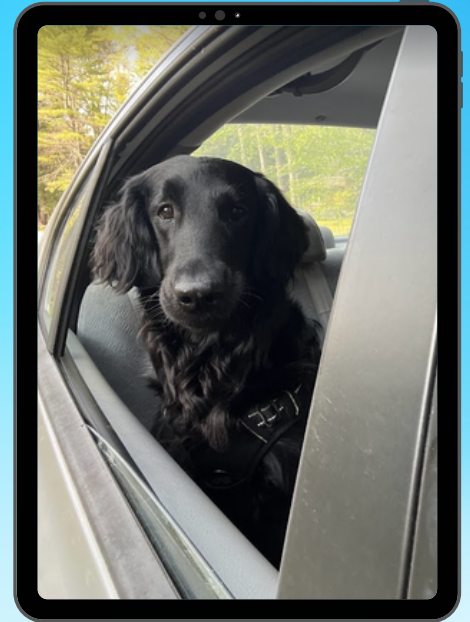
1. Never allow someone to stifle your goals or dreams. Just because they were not able to achieve their dreams, does not mean that you cannot achieve yours.
2. Seek leadership opportunities and Honors courses early on if you are planning to attend college. Your hard work will pay off!
3. Enjoy your time in high school. This brief four-year experience will go by faster than you think!

SALUTATORIAN ~ ERIN NORBERT



Hi! I've been at MEVA since 7th grade. Thanks to MEVA's flexibility and resources, I've had the opportunity to take 13 college courses and AP Art throughout my high school career. I'm beyond grateful for all the lovely teachers I've had here — I've loved seeing the art program grow because it's been invaluable for me and a real joy to partake in. I really owe everything to Ms. Uth and Mrs. Samson, they're both amazing teachers.

I plan to go to USM for ASL Interpreting, which I discovered I am passionate about after Ms. Pierce started teaching ASL here. For hobbies I love art... obviously, and I'm known to read the occasional book.

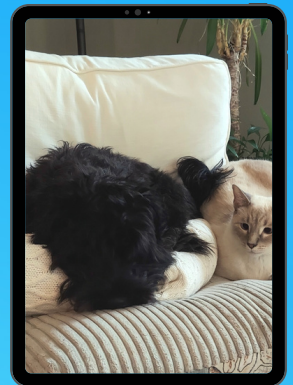


TEACHER FEATURE

LINDSEY SAMSON



Working at MEVA: I'm an art teacher here at MEVA! I teach 7th & 8th grade art, Photography, and Digital Art along with co-teaching AP, GT, and the RISE art programs! It is my third year fully teaching here at MEVA, but my fourth year here because I also did my student teaching here before graduating with my Bachelors in Art Education in 2021.



ART TEACHER

Fun Facts about me: I love creating (Art teacher, hello!). Lately I've been into watercolors and ceramics, but my passion varies year to year. I also enjoy reading and spending time with my husband Jake, cat Onyx and dog Sterling.

