



DR. MELINDA BROWNE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome back from Spring Break! Thanks to all the students, families, teachers, and staff who completed the annual Panorama School Climate Survey, which supplies valuable feedback to inform our continuous school improvement.

Our May programming features both virtual NWEAs for grades 7 through 11, and in-person Maine Educational Assessments (MEAs) for grades 7, 8, 10, and 11. We are aiming for robust participation.

Please take your time and do your very best.

The Spring NWEAs give students the opportunity to show their fall to spring, and/or winter to spring, growth and help teachers design individualized instruction to address their learning needs/gaps.

The MEAs measure what students know and can do in relation to grade level content. These assessments inform funding decisions at the federal and state levels that supply necessary support and resources to our school.

Also, this month, we will start sending out graduation boxes and details about our virtual graduation ceremony on June 7th. The 2023/2024 school year is quickly ending. Summer is around the corner! Continuing students may contact their guidance counselor if they are interested in taking summer courses. We are reaching out to students and families if we have specific summer recommendations.

Dr. Melinda Browne, Head of School
Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA)

HelpDesk -

In HelpDesk we ask questions, complete homework, and conquer missing assignments. You can even access one of our student tutors. Some students may be required to attend if your teacher(s) feels it is appropriate.

Please join us and see what you can accomplish!

HelpDesk meets everyday 2:00-2:50pm

For more information, please check the HelpDesk content called

Students Corner or email Nicole Hart at nhart@mainevirtualacademy.org

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER -

April 30th through May 2nd - **Virtual**
NWEA testing.



May 6th @ 6:30pm - Cook Center
"Everyday Happiness" 😄



May 13th - 17th - **In person** MEA
Testing

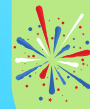
June 7th - Graduation 🎓

June 14th - Last Day of School &
8th Grade Recognition

June 24th - First Day of Summer
Session

July 1st - 5th - Summer Session Break

School Holidays -



May 27th - Memorial Day

June 19th - Juneteenth



July 4th - Independence Day

Friendly Reminder for Parents / Students

Just a reminder that if you need a refresher on using the tools available in your courses, such as accessing Newsela, Gizmos, Microsoft 365, Sora, etc., video tutorials are available in the Parent and Student resource shell. You can check out the resources [here](#).

Thanks,

Christina O'Grady, M.Ed
Curriculum Coordinator
Self-Paced Science Teacher
MEVA

SPRING TESTING - VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON

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-May 2nd**. 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 check your email inbox, junk and spam folders for an email form Testing Nirvana or MEVA testing for your testing location important information.**

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.

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:

May 6th - "Everyday Happiness" - 5/6/2024 - 6:30pm, the Cook Center will be discussing everyday happiness. To register, please click this [link](#).

MEVA CLUBS -

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](#)! 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

SENIORS & EARLY GRADUATES



- 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 by 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.

TEACHER FEATURE - CARRIE PIERCE

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/ASL CLUB/ASL ENRICHMENT

About my career - I am currently in my 2nd year at MEVA teaching American Sign Language. I have taught ASL for all ages throughout the state of Maine for several years. I enjoy educating people about ASL, and Deaf Culture. A tip for students: Feeling anxious? Try reducing your coffee, sugar and chocolate intake!



A little bit about me - During my free time, you will find me walking, signing, writing, taking pictures and doing yoga along the shores of Maine. I enjoy cooking and taking pictures of healthy food choices. I often mentor and serve as a Deaf advocate throughout the state.



CLASS REPRESENTATIVE - HELENA RAMON



Hello, I'm Helena! I'm a senior here at Meva. I have been a student at meva since sophomore year in 2021. This school has given me so many amazing opportunities that I'll be forever grateful for! I've been able to attend a technical school for pre-nursing through Meva. This allows me to push forward in my future career before I have even graduated highschool. By the end of the school year I will be a licensed CNA and can start my work in healthcare. If it wasn't for Meva I wouldn't have had this opportunity.

Through this course I will be receiving 7 free college credits as well. All academic aside, I have also made so many amazing lifelong friends through Meva. The teachers here have all been so supportive and helpful. I have really enjoyed my years here at Meva

Advice for new students

- Online school is a big jump in learning so be patient with yourself. You're going to get upset and possibly angry but don't give up and reach out for help!!!
- Time management is going to be your best friend. I know we all see that assignment due next week and we think "I have time". Next thing you know it's the night before it's due and you're stressing yourself out to get it done. Don't cause yourself stress, just do the assignment as soon as possible.
- TAKE BREAKS! I can't stress this enough. Burnout is a real thing! Take breaks and do things you love doing.
- And lastly enjoy all the freedom you have now that you are in a virtual environment. Take your computer outside for classes or do your homework in another country. The possibilities are endless! Just enjoy it!



EXTERNAL CREDIT -

Are you working or volunteering? Do you have extensive experience outside of school? Complete the External Credit Form so your guidance counselor can review it. Your hard work may qualify as credit! MEVA External Credit Form [link](#)

LAPTOP & TECHNOLOGY ISSUES -

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.



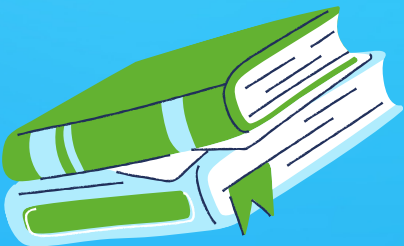


VISION SCREENING & RESOURCES -



The MDOE requires schools to conduct vision screenings and/or refer students to vision screenings who are in grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. MEVA audits students in the 7th and 9th grades to ensure screenings were conducted either in the previous school or by private effort. We are requesting MEVA parents/legal guardians of 7th and 9th graders to please complete the survey (if you haven't already done so) to update the status of your student's last vision screening: Vision Screening Form. If your student is overdue for a vision screening and/or you need financial assistance to cover glasses, see below for resources that may be able to help! Students who qualify for MaineCare can have their exam and glasses covered in full, under the age of 21.

- **Maine Lions Club services a variety of areas throughout the State of Maine for eyecare/glasses assistance. Click the link to apply or request assistance <https://www.mainelions.org/mlshf>**
- **Additional programs or companies that support low cost or free eyecare are also listed on this site <https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/healthy-vision/get-free-or-low-cost-eye-care>**
- **Greater Portland Community Health System <https://www.greaterportlandhealth.org/about>**
- **Portland Community Free Clinic <https://pcfcme.com/>**



SUMMER PROGRAMS -

Are you interested in continuing academic progress this summer? MEVA runs an optional, six-week, summer session each year. Teachers provide instructional sessions for students studying self-paced courses and offer a Help Desk for on demand tutoring.

Please take advantage of everything MEVA has to offer. If you are interested in summer school, let your guidance counselor know.

