



SY 2024 / 2025

Issue # 1

August Newsletter

Dr. Melinda Browne

Head of School

Welcome to MEVA school year 2024-2025, our tenth operating year since we opened our virtual doors in fall 2015. We value your participation and plan to enlist your help along the way towards accomplishing our mission and vision. As active parents/Learning Coaches and students, you can give back by completing all the tasks we ask you to do, including the Family Income Form, school climate surveys, and school/state testing. All these things positively affect our funding, and our ability to continue providing our families and students with the best possible service and support.

Speaking of service and support, MEVA prioritizes delivering high quality instruction by offering customized course options that meet our students' needs. We enjoy collaborating directly with you to make MEVA a great fit. Our 'secret sauce' is the constant attention that we pay to our students' academic progress, and the strong effort we employ to involve parents/Learning Coaches through regular team meetings and other outreach communications. That said, please do not hesitate to request a time to speak with us by emailing the Guidance Department (guidance@mainevirtualacademy.org); we are here to help.

New families will engage in onboarding sessions prior to our first day of classes (August 26th). However, you may begin familiarizing yourselves with MEVA's virtual model by reviewing this newsletter and preparing your students' learning environment. We are happy to give advice about how to set the stage for virtual learning success.

Important Dates

August 9th - SY 23-24 Self Paced Classes Close;
Summer School Ends

August 22nd - New Student Orientation at
12pm or 6pm.

August 26th - First Day of School

School Holidays

September 2nd - Labor Day

MEVA's Mission 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.

New Student Orientation

On Thursday, August 22nd there will be two New Student Orientation sessions via Zoom. Session times will be from 12pm - 2pm, and the second one being from 6pm to 8pm. Attendance is mandatory for all New Students and their Learning Coaches. We will be going over MEVA policies and navigation of the platform. The Zoom link will be sent out by email the week before orientation.

Successful Learning Spaces

It is important to have a dedicated workspace set up for your student and a strong internet connection. When figuring out the best location to set up your learning space, consider the following:

- Find an appropriate spot in your home. How is the lighting? Is there enough space for schooling? Consider the furniture placement. Ensure the desk or table for your student is an appropriate size, and that it is free from clutter. Make sure you have shelving and space to store learning materials.
- How is the internet connection? This is very important - your student is learning online. If you already know that your learning space has poor internet connection, move the router closer to your student's space, or find a better location.
- Are there distractions? Rooms with televisions, gaming systems, or lots of toys will make it difficult for your student to concentrate.
- Are you dressed and ready for the day? Changing into school clothes can make a big difference in your attitude. Make sure you wake up with plenty of time before school and prepare yourself for the day.
- Are you hungry? Start the day with breakfast and keep water close by. This will help your student stay focused and hydrated while in class.

Barriers to Learning?

If you have any school issues, struggle in the virtual environment, or have barriers to learning - let us know! Please send a message to your Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Tyler (10-12) or Mr. Pierce (7-9), explaining what's going on and they will set up a meeting to help chart a path to success.

Laptops

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. [MEVA Laptop Tech form.](#)

Attendance

Students are required to log into school daily. Separately, Learning Coaches MUST also log in and log attendance in order to prevent your student from being marked absent. Students are required to have 5 hours and 30 minutes of logged time per day Monday through Friday. If a student is absent they can watch the recordings over the weekend but time MUST be entered on the day missed.

*For assistance with logging attendance or to report an absence, please email Attendance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Early College

Maine public high school students can register for 12 tuition-free college credits per year via University of Maine and Maine Community Colleges. MEVA covers the cost of the books! You get college AND high school credit! In general, students (juniors and seniors, sophomores with permission) need a 2.7 GPA to qualify. Please email your Guidance Counselor if you are interested.

Self Paced Courses

Self paced courses allow students to work through the same content that they would in a live course, but at their own pace and on their own time. Students who are self-motivated, working, or prefer to take ownership of their education can benefit from engaging in self paced courses. Check with your Guidance Counselor if you are interested in enrolling.

Sora - Digital Library

SORA is the student reading app for OverDrive.

SORA provides access to ebooks and audiobooks from your school and public library.

- Log into your MEVA Google Account
- Open SORA on your student laptop.
- Select Maine Virtual Academy.
- Sign in with your MEVA Google Account.
- Save link to your desktop or bookmark it.

External Credits

Are you working or volunteering? Do you have extensive experience outside of school? Your hard work may qualify as credit! Complete the [External Credit Form](#) for credit consideration.

Transcript Requests

Transcripts are often needed for college and technical school applications, sports, military and employment. Please make requests using this [link](#).

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

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 State 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.

Virtual Accuplacer Testing

All graduating students for the school year 2024-2025 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 to ensure your student is college and career ready when they graduate. *Note if a student completed the testing during the 2023-2024 school year, they do not need to take the test again unless otherwise indicated by their scores.

Vision Screening

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.

Portland Community Free Clinic
For more information please click the [link](#) provided.

Additional programs or companies that support low cost or free eyecare are also listed on this [site](#).

Greater Portland Community Health System & more information at the [link](#) provided.

SY 24/25 Language Classes

Language courses offered include Spanish, French, and Language Studies. American Sign Language is a visual hands-on language class being offered to students who are comfortable on camera. We provide coaching to help ASL students become comfortable on camera. Please email your [Guidance Counselor](#) if you are interested in signing up.

Some of the electives MEVA has to offer:

- French
 - Spanish
 - American Sign Language
 - Various Art Classes
 - Oceanography/Marine Biology
 - Maine History
 - Early/Late Medieval History.
- **For a more comprehensive list, please visit our [Program of Studies](#)**

MEVA Apparel

If your child is interested in getting either a T-Shirt or a hoodie; you can purchase them at this [link](#).

Teacher Feature - August



**Jenn
McNally**

About my Career at MEVA:

This is my second year at MEVA and I am very excited to be here. I took a year off from teaching and this has been a great experience. The staff and students are wonderful and I look forward to a fantastic year.

A little bit about myself:

In the summer I go 4wheeling across this wonderful state. In the winter, when I am not hibernating, I snowshoe. I love to read and crochet.

Welcome to our NEWEST MEVA Teachers

HS – Bethany Kennedy – bkennedy@mainevirtualacademy.org
MS/HS – Kevin Rousseau – krousseau@mainevirtualacademy.org
HS – Jenny Scribner – jscribner@mainevirtualacademy.org
HS – Anthony Moffatt – amoffatt@mainevirtualacademy.org
MS/HS – Vikki Sergent – vsergent@mainevirtualacademy.org
MS/HS – Rebecca Ackerman-Cross – rcross@mainevirtualacademy.org
MEVA Science Department Intern: MS/HS Meredith Priess –
mpriess@mainevirtualacademy.org

FAQ's

If I'm approved for early graduation, does that make me a senior?

No! You will graduate at your current grade level.

Why State Testing?

Participation contributes towards our Federal funding. Students are required to attend all virtual and in-person State testing.

My student attends everyday, why are you sending me attendance warnings?

Students need to log into Brightspace daily AND LCs need to log attendance daily.

Can I opt out of emails and voice messages?

No! Normally this information is sent home in your student's backpack but we are a virtual school - this is how we communicate with you!

MEVA contacts

(207)613-8900

**Emails are the swiftest way to
contact Faculty.**

Head of School:

Dr. Melinda Browne

MBrowne@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Academic Administrator:

Mr. Fournier

DFournier@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Attendance: x2010

Attendance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Graduation Activities:

Mr. Castro

DCastro@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Guidance Department: x2003

Guidance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Mr. Pierce (7-9)

DPierce@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Mrs. Tyler (10-12)

HTyler@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Laptops: x2003

Tech@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Call/Text 207-292-1762

Newsletter:

Mrs. Clarke

KClarke@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Registrar:

Ms. Crosby x2000

MCrosby@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Special Education Department:

Ms. Vitagliano

LVitagliano@MaineVirtualAcademy.org