

SY 2024 - 2025
Issue 2
September Newsletter



Dr. Melinda Browne
Head of School

We are proud of MEVA's excellent service and expansive course selection that we offer our students and their families. However, the unsung heroes of our virtual educational program – we do not want you to miss – are weekly, grade-level advisory groups (i.e., home rooms) that inform students and connect them to their teachers and peers in a fun, social setting. Short advisory group lessons cover twenty-first century skills, such as collaboration, communication, technology literacy, initiative, and time management, which target career readiness, preparing our students for life after high school. We award credit for students' participation in these activities.

MEVA's courses, including advisories, are designed by our talented teachers, who are continuously innovating and improving their content, based on students' outcomes and stakeholder feedback. One notable innovation is the self-paced versions of core academic, high school, courses that are used by students needing credit recovery and/or advancement opportunities. Self-paced courses utilize a build-your-own-grade approach and a longer window to complete the required academic standards. Please reach out to your Guidance Counselor if you would like more information about MEVA's annual self-paced course offerings.

Finally, we define excellent service at MEVA as meeting our students and families where they are and providing the support necessary for them to thrive in our school community. That said, please do not hesitate to request a team meeting if you would like to share vital details about your needs; we are here to help.

School Holidays

- September 2nd : Labor Day
- October 14th: Indigenous Peoples' Day
- November 11th: Veterans' Day
- November 28th: Thanksgiving
- December 25th: Christmas

Important Dates

- Semester 1: August 26, 2024 - January 16th, 2024.
- September 10th -12th Virtual NWEA testing.
- October 7th & 8th: In person MEA testing.

MEVA 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.

HelpDesk for Middle School & High School

Welcome back to school! As we start another school year, it's common to have trouble staying organized after summer break. Just a reminder that HelpDesk is here to help you stay on top of your assignments.

The HelpDesk provides you with a direct line to your teachers across all subjects. You can use HelpDesk to ask questions, complete homework, and excel in your assignments. There might be times when your teacher recommends that you attend for additional support. We wholeheartedly invite you to join us and unlock your true potential!

If you are a Middle School student, you will have HelpDesk available at 2 pm daily. Don't miss it! 😊

If you are a High School student, you can access HelpDesk at 10:00 a.m., and another section will be available at 2:00 p.m. daily. We can't wait to see you there and show you what we have in store! Come on in, and let's make this school year your best!

Let's compare HelpDesk vs Study Hall!

	HelpDesk	Study Hall
Live Homework Help for your classes with the teachers who teach that subject.	Yes	Sometimes
Organizational Tips	Yes	Sometimes
Independent work time	Yes	Yes
Creating a Catch-up Plan	Yes	Sometimes
Asynchronous Help	Yes	No
Tech Support	Yes	No
Guidance Counselor	Yes	Yes
Work with a Peer	Yes	Sometimes

With all these great things to offer, we are sure you will be excited to try it out! As always, the HelpDesk strongly recommends working closely with your content teachers to stay ahead.

We also know that things happen, and this may be a great space to give you extra time to work, get help, and grow to meet your goals!

CHEERS!

ALL OF THE MEVA TEACHERS

Advisory

Advisory sessions at MEVA are an essential part of the curriculum. Students are required and encouraged to attend the weekly sessions. Students will explore a variety of topics related to life skills, college and career readiness, and twenty-first century thinking. Students will earn credit (pass/fail) for their active participation in advisory. Advisory is an opportunity for students to connect with their peers, their school community, and their teachers. Middle school meets Mondays at 10:30am; high school meets Mondays at 1:00pm. For more information you can reach out to Mrs. O'Grady by [Email](#).

ACCUPLACER Virtual Testing

All graduating students for the school year 2023-2024 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 for your student to ensure they are college and career ready when they graduate. *Note if a student completed the testing during the 2022-2023 school year, they do not need to take the test again unless otherwise indicated by their scores. Students need a VALID ID to be able to take the ACCUPLACER. If your student does not have an ID, please contact [Mrs. O'Grady](#).

Attention Students in 9th -12th

Many of you are employed and/or enrolled in tech centers and/or early college courses. It is important that MEVA has accurate information on this and therefore we are asking you to complete a very brief Google Form.

- Students who are enrolled in a high school technical center or enrolled in early college courses need to complete the following [form](#):
- Students who are employed need to complete the following [form](#):

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):

Seniors and any juniors graduating early should complete the FAFSA to be considered for financial aid at any post-secondary institution. This is required for free community college as well.

The 2025-26 FAFSA will be released in December.

Sign up for text/email alerts and you will be entered into a drawing for \$1000 Future Fund Scholarship! Sign up here - FAMEmaine.com/join

24-25 Language Courses

Spanish, French, Language Studies and American Sign Language (ASL) are the language courses being offered for the Fall. We provide coaching to help students become comfortable on camera, which is an important twenty-first century skill. If interested, contact your [Guidance Counselor](#).

National Honor Society

The MEVA Chapter of the National Honor Society is excited to begin a new year! Students with a 3.0 GPA or higher who also demonstrate Character, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service are welcome to apply. Please keep an eye out for more information this Fall.

Gifted & Talented Artists

Calling all Students! We are actively looking for those that are interested and committed to furthering their skills in Art! Students who are committed to learning and exploring art in depth are welcome to apply for the Gifted and Talented program, aka GT Art. We will be meeting each Wednesday at 2pm. Please Email Ms. Uth and Ms. Samson if interested.

Fall Virtual NWEAS

Save the date! Grades 7-11 students will participate in the virtual NWEAs the week of September 10th. This data allows us to design a personalized learning and intervention plan for your student!

How Can You Support Your Student?

We are often asked what you, as the guardian/parent, can do to support an atmosphere of learning within the home. Reading to your student or encouraging your student to read is a critical task that helps to improve a student's academic achievement. You may be very familiar with that strategy. However, you can also help your student by having a math-literate home. Don't worry - you don't have to teach them Calculus to be a math-literate home! Simple tasks include encouraging them to follow a recipe (fractions), explaining how you calculate your vehicle's gas mileage, or balancing your income with spending. These everyday, mundane tasks, are using math and can show your student that math is important and it can be fun!

SORA - Digital Library

SORA is the student reading app for OverDrive. SORA provides access to ebooks and audiobooks from your school and public library. Use this link to view the tutorial.

- Download SORA to your device of choice.
- Click on "I have a setup code"
- Enter: meva
- Click "Get Started"
- Sign in with your MEVA google account.

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 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.

Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

Maine Virtual Academy is committed to providing every student with the highest quality of education. To this end, we screen students three times yearly to determine whether they are progressing in reading and math. Our teachers and support staff use a variety of approaches within the classroom to ensure student success both behaviorally and academically. However, some students may need additional support. MEVA utilizes a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) for all students. To learn more about this process, click [here](#).

Quick Links for MEVA Contacts

If you or your Student has any questions and are looking for a quick response use the following email addresses:

[Attendance](#)

[Guidance Secretary](#)

[Guidance Counselors](#)

Grade 7-9 (Dan)

Grade 10-12 (Heather)

[Tech](#)

[Special Education](#)

Requesting your students' Teachers Credentials

- Please click the [link](#) to request for this information.

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:

<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/>

Newsletter

Please vote for your student, teacher and staff member of the month here. Results will be announced in the October newsletter. To submit your pet photos, shoutouts and newsletter ideas for the newsletter, please [email Mrs. Clarke](mailto:Mrs.Clarke) before September 15th.

Teacher Feature -



About Stephanie Martitz:

It is engaging and fun. I feel that it is very collaborative. I like the relationships that I have built here.

Hobbies of Stephanie Martitz:

I like to read and write. I also like to bake and crochet, as well as, go camping with my family.

Student Feature - 23/24 SY



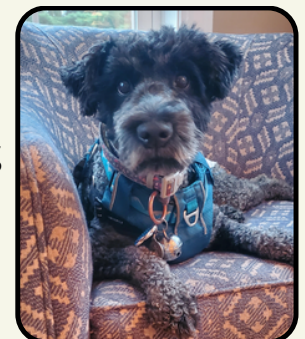
About Emeline Cournane:

Hello! My name is Emeline Cournane, and this is my third year here at MEVA. I enjoy various activities and trying new things outside of school, but my favorites are cross country, dance, waterskiing, and cooking. I am very excited about 9th grade with all the new teachers and courses. Here at MEVA, I have learned throughout my past two years to always go the extra mile and not be afraid of the future or what will happen next, as the teachers are very helpful and amazing.

Pet Corner



Ms. Martitz's Dog
Named Artemis



Emeline's Dog
Named Daisy