

SY 24-25

Issue 5

December 1, 2024



MAINE VIRTUAL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Dr. Melinda Browne Head of School

At MEVA, working towards your academic growth brings us all joy! We are hoping at this point in the first semester that you are taking advantage of everything that MEVA is offering to ensure your successful learning. MEVA offers continuous support across the curriculum inside and outside the virtual classrooms. Many teachers dedicate class time to providing students with tutoring and coaching on course content. In addition to this, students may find assistance from teachers at middle/high school Help Desk. Overall, students can readily get what they need and experience success. However, if you would like to set up a team meeting, please do not hesitate to ask. We meet with dozens of families each week to provide individualized attention and to celebrate students' progress.

**"The future belongs to those who
believe in the beauty of their dreams."**

Eleanor Roosevelt



School holidays

**December 23rd - January 1st:
Winter Break**

**January 20th:
Martin Luther King Day**

**February 14th - 21st
February Vacation**

Important dates

**Semester 1:
August 26th 2024-January 16th 2025**

**Winter NEWA's
January 14th, 15th, and 16th**

**Semester 2:
January 17th - June 13th 2025**



A Message about Child Find

Discovering Every Learner's Potential: MEVA's Child Find Initiative
MEVA's Child Find program identifies and supports students who may benefit from special education services or targeted interventions. This initiative ensures every learner receives the support they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

If you suspect your student may have learning differences or challenges, or if you have questions,

For further assistance, please reach out to: **Lena Vitagliano**,
Special Education Administrator You can call me at
603-785-2021. Together, we can help your learner reach their full
potential and set the stage for their success!

MEVA contacts

Use these emails for a quick response to
your questions:

Attendance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Guidance@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

Tech@MaineVirtualAcademy.org

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

A Message From HelpDesk!

We are proud of the progress you've made this year! Your hard work is paying off, and we're excited to see your continued growth. If you're struggling with grades or feeling overwhelmed, remember that we are here to help.

If you're falling behind, the first step is to check your progress—and we can help with that! The HelpDesk teachers are available Monday to Friday to assist you with checking your grade books, understanding where you stand, identifying areas that need improvement, and of course, helping with your homework!

We can also help you create a personalized plan for success, including setting a priority to-do list to help you manage your assignments and stay organized. Our goal is to help you break down your workload into manageable steps so you can make steady progress and catch up where needed.

HelpDesk Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10:30 am (HS Only) and 2 pm (Whole School)

Location: <https://mainevirtual-org.zoom.us/j/84397724746>

Don't hesitate to reach out for support with assignments, study strategies, or to make a plan for success. We're here to help you every step of the way! Keep up the great work, and remember—no matter where you are right now, we believe in your potential and are here to help you reach your goals! Please feel free to email me any time,

Ms. Hart, HelpDesk Coordinator
207-200-5236



Resources for families

Looking for Mental Health Resources, please go to <https://parentguidance.org/> to explore free public webinars and information that may help!

At MEVA, we understand that balancing academic responsibilities can sometimes be challenging, and we're here to support you every step of the way. If you're feeling overwhelmed by past due work, remember that winter break offers a perfect opportunity to catch up and relieve some of that stress before the semester ends. A simple yet effective strategy is to break down your workload into manageable tasks. For instance, if you have 20 overdue assignments, tackling just two each day over the 12-day winter break can help you complete them all by the end of your vacation.

Also, don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers for guidance or clarification on any assignments. Our dedicated guidance counselors, are ready to assist you in navigating your academic journey, please contact 7th-9th Grade Mr. Pierce or for 10th-12th Grade Mrs. Tyler for more information.

Additionally, Mehry Mohammadi is available for further support or to schedule a team meeting. Remember, seeking help is a proactive and commendable step towards achieving your educational goals, and we're here to help you succeed.

Attendance

Please make sure your Learning Coach logs daily attendance. Students need 5 hours and 30 minutes of logged time per day. Students are expected to log in EVERY SINGLE DAY, regardless of live or ASYNC classes. If you are going to be absent for any reason, please have your Learning Coach send an email to let us know

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! Here is the weekly club schedule:

Tuesday:

- Anime - Alex Campbell
- Animal-Bird - Meredith Priess
- Art/Photography - Lindsey Samson
- Chess - Zach Campbell
- ASL - Carrie Pierce

Thursday:

- Gaming - Zach Campbell
- NHS meets every other Thursday - Colleen Ford/Matt Corbett

Friday

- Prodigy - Gayle Langis
- Book meets on the first Friday of the month - Vanessa Richardson



CLUB OF THE MONTH Art & Photography club

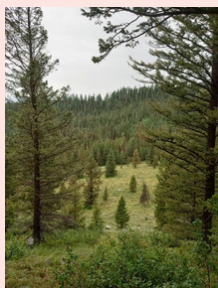


Photo By:
Lucas Horan

Art and Photography Club is a time for students to get together and talk about, work on, and share art along with their personal interests and passions. So far this year we've played Gartic Phone, laughed and talked, created digital and physical art, and shared photographs of the Northern Lights and Trips we've taken.

The Club meets Every Tuesday at 3pm
If you love Art (and Laughing) Please Join Us!



Digital Art By:
Austin Downs



Digital Art By:
Cole Waters



Art By:
Owen Tebbets



Art By:
Hayven Fancher

Newsletter Ideas

We're excited to celebrate our talented MEVA students! If you have artwork or cute pet photos to share, please send them to newsletter@mainevirtualacademy.org. We'd love to feature your creativity and the joy your pets bring!

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is on track to be released by December 1, 2024.

Below are some updates to make navigating financial aid season as easy as possible!

Financial Aid Information Sessions

One of the best ways for students and families to get familiar with the financial aid process is to attend one of FAME's Financial Aid Information sessions. PLEASE consider signing you and your Parent/Guardian up for a Virtual FAFSA Help Session offered by FAME (Finance Authority of Maine).

Dec 11- 6:00 PM [Virtual FAFSA Help Session](#) Online, via Zoom

Dec 17- 6:00 PM [Virtual FAFSA Help Session](#) Online, via Zoom

Jan 8- 6:00 PM [Virtual FAFSA Help Session](#) Online, via Zoom

Jan 14- 11:30 AM [Virtual FAFSA Help Session](#) Online, via Zoom

Jan 21- 6:00 PM [Virtual FAFSA Help Session](#) Online, via Zoom



FSA ID Creation-

Now is the time to create their Federal Student Aid accounts (FSA IDs) at StudentAid.gov. Individuals should create their FSA IDs before the release of the FAFSA so that their demographic information can be matched with the Social Security Administration. This is what allows federal tax information to be transferred from the IRS, making FAFSA completion much easier!

Federal Student Aid just released the "[parent wizard](#)" to help families determine which parents' information is required on the FAFSA and which parent(s) needs to log into the FAFSA with their FSA ID.

Mitchell Scholarship

On December 1, we will open the Mitchell Scholarship application here: www.mitchellinstitute.org/scholarship/. As some of you may know, that's a month earlier than usual – and you can learn more about the change on our update page.

Our hope is that students can now open the application while working on college applications, and perhaps even finish the application over winter break. We also have a new series of videos designed to help them work through the application with ease and clarity.



A few key details for you and your students:

The deadline to submit the online application is March 1.

The completed application, transcript, recommendation letter, and the FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) will be due by March 1. Copies of the college acceptance and financial aid information will be due, if available, by April 1.

The Mitchell Scholarship is \$10,000.

We will award at least one scholarship at every public Maine high school – yes, your school may have more than one Mitchell Scholar!

Students are eligible to apply if they are planning to pursue a two-year or four-year degree program at an accredited college or university (in or out of Maine).

Mitchell Scholars also have access to additional funding, signature events, ongoing advising, and a community of over 600 fellow Scholars and 3,000 Alumni.

College Speaker Series

December 2 1:00-1:50 Community College Presentation

January 13 1:00-1:50 Thomas College



This is a Virtual Zoom presentation during our regularly scheduled advisory time at 1:00-1:50 provided by an admissions counselor from the respective school as a way to share more about majors, residential life, applications, and more. Students may join the session through the Zoom link (provided on their Brightspace calendar for the day). Any student that is not 12th grade advisory or is absent on that day will still receive recordings and follow up information after each session.



Attention Juniors and Seniors!



Are you a strong student looking for a challenge?

Are you interested in taking a college class for FREE in the Spring 2025 semester?

If so, please talk this over with your Learning Coach and Mrs. Tyler and read all the information below carefully.

- Students with at least a 2.7 GPA are eligible.
- Tuition is FREE and MEVA covers the cost of books!
- You get college credit and high school credit!
- These are college classes taught by college professors either online or in person at the college campus.
- You may register for courses at any Maine Community College or University of Maine College.
- Important note: Students taking college courses must access help independently and regularly check their grades. The college professors will typically offer help sessions and there is tutoring available. When you enroll in a college course all communication goes directly to you, not to MEVA or your parent/learning coach so it is important to be responsible and aware of this.
- Students typically begin with one course for their first college course experience.
- Do you have an IEP or 504? You will need to contact Disability Services at the college.
- You must apply at least two weeks before the course begins. No exceptions to this.



National Honors Society

Please Welcome our New Members

A. Aizha-Roussy

L. Boucher

M. Hughes

P. Lavoie

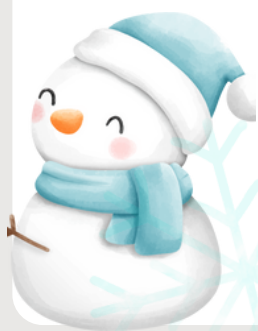
O. Mills

C. Nadeau

O. Romanow

C. Schulte

L. Willy



SCHOLARSHIP



CHARACTER



LEADERSHIP

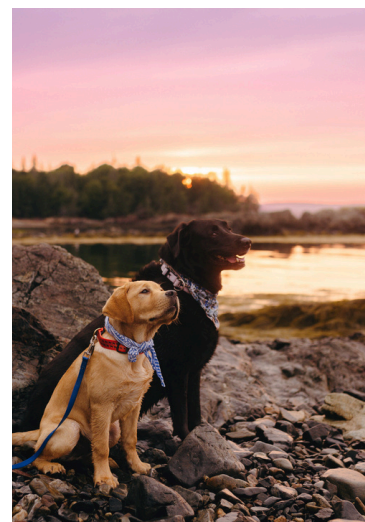
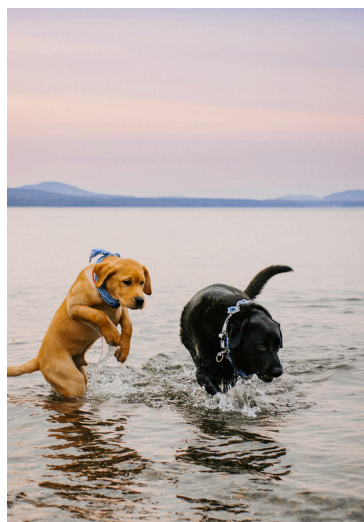


SERVICE

Teacher Feature: Mr Barletta



My name is Mr. Barletta, and this is my 5th year teaching at MEVA. I teach Biology and Marine Biology/Oceanography elective courses. I have two awesome doggies (Sonny and Stella). Sonny is only 5 months, and Stella is 7 years old, adventuring with them is my favorite thing to do!



Student Feature: Eleanor Seamon



A Little Bit About Me:

This is my first year at MEVA, and my first time attending an organized school! My teachers and classmates have helped me love learning. I am infinitely grateful. :)



My Hobbies Are:

I love my family and have two cats, who were adopted off the streets in Hawaii. I live in both Oregon and Maine. I boulder, dance, read, and love to learn. I think it is never, ever too late to grow from our past mistakes!

