

SY 24-25
Issue 7
February 1, 2025



MAINE

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Dr. Melinda Browne Head of School



Welcome to the new families and students who have joined us mid-school year for the second semester and beyond. We hope that you take advantage of all MEVA's offerings and opportunities. Engagement is an incredibly vital component of what we do to accomplish our mission and vision. We encourage students to attend live classes, including daily Help Desk and weekly, grade-level advisory groups. These sessions facilitate social interaction and build constructive student-teacher relationships, as well as peer-student friendships. There is an impressive menu of (virtual) clubs to extend collaborative activities. Overall, MEVA promotes superb communication between our school and your homes. Please do not hesitate to request a meeting with guidance, teachers, and administration to address any questions or concerns. Your positive experience at our school is always the top priority!

School holidays

February 14th - 21st, February Vacation

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!

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](#).



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.

FAFSA

Financial Aid Information Sessions-Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application is now open!

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.
FAFSA

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.



Worthington Scholarship

The Worthington Scholarship is now open for applicants! Deadline to apply is April 15th, 2025. The Worthington Scholarship is intended for low and middle income students.

In 2024, over 80% of applicants received a scholarship! For more information, email us at info@worthingtonscholars.org or visit worthingtonscholars.org

Eligibility Guidelines:

- Graduating senior from a WSF partner high school.
- SAI of 30,000 or less as determined by the FAFSA
- For 4-year college scholarship, a high school GPA of B- or higher
- For community college scholarship, a high school GPA of C- or higher
- Full-time enrollment at a WSF partner college in Fall 2025



Apply at
worthingtonscholars.org



Application opens January 1st
Application closes April 15th

Teacher Feature

Coady Richardson



Interesting Facts About Me

I am married to Mrs. Richardson (which you probably already know) and we have a beautiful daughter named Evangeline. In my free time, I enjoy hunting during the fall and spring and gardening in the summer.



Working at MEVA

I've been with MEVA for 6 years. I originally started teaching in person, but virtual teaching appealed to me. I made the switch and haven't looked back since!

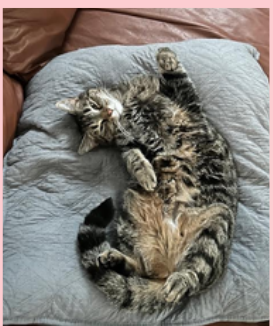
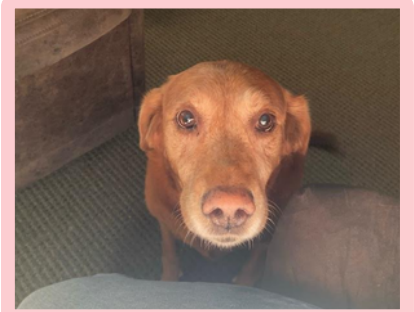


Student Feature:

Madilynn Buzzell



Hi, I'm Madilynn! I'm a high school student working toward going to nursing school because it's been a dream of mine since childhood. Nursing has always been something I'm passionate about because I love helping others. I also have a job I really enjoy, where I'm gaining valuable experience and building skills for my future career. Outside of school and work, I spend a lot of time with my family and enjoy fun days with my aunt a couple of times a year!



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
- 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 Anime Club



Anime, a vibrant and dynamic form of animation originating 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



Art By
Zoey Burhoe



Memory quilt
by Jayden Davis
Made from old clothes
for family friends !





READING FUN

Reading Challenge With Mrs. Pasternack



BOOKS ARE THE WINDOWS TO AN INFINITE WORLD OF WISDOM

Reading is a great way to explore new worlds, gain knowledge, and relax. Our teachers have selected their favorite books available on our digital library, SORA, at this [link](#). For more inspiration, visit the Maine DOE's Summer Literacy website at this [link](#) for various recommendations. Don't forget to check your local library this summer; it's full of books waiting to be discovered. Happy reading!



VISION SCREENING COMPLIANCE



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.

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

Greater Portland Community Health System & more information at the link provided. Portland Community Free Clinic
For more information please click the [link](#) provided.

Re-Registration

Re-Registration is opening soon for the 2025-2026 School Year! MEVA's annual Re-Registration period starts on March 3rd. Reminder – all current MEVA students must be re-registered each year in order to keep your place. Students are not automatically re-enrolled unless you complete the "Commitment to Enroll Form".

Keep a look out for school communications that will be sent to you soon. These communications will provide you with details on Portal open dates, Open House, Re- Registration Help Sessions, Course Information and Step-by-Step info on how to complete your Re-Registration for fall. Seats will only be open to returning families for a short period of time, before seats are open to the public. We look forward to having you back again next school year!

A Message From HelpDesk!



Start Semester 2 Strong with HelpDesk Support!

As we begin Semester 2, now is the perfect time to set yourself up for success. Take a moment to review your grade books and plan ahead to stay on top of your coursework. Starting the semester with good habits can make a huge difference in achieving your goals.

HelpDesk is here for you every weekday at 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM. This is a great space to stay focused on your live and self-paced classes, get help with coursework, and tackle your to-do list in a supportive environment. Whether you're diving into new topics, staying on track with assignments, or planning your study routine, HelpDesk is here to support your journey.

Make sure to take advantage of the HelpDesk Homework Organizer, available daily in the calendar, to create a personalized plan that helps you stay organized and meet deadlines with confidence.

HelpDesk isn't just a resource—it's a community where we come together to support and motivate each other. Let's set goals, build momentum, and make Semester 2 a great success!

HelpDesk Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10:30 AM & 2:00 PM

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



Resources for families

At MEVA, we understand that balancing academic responsibilities can sometimes be challenging, and we're here to support you every step of the way. Please check with your teachers for the last days to turn in your work before the end of semester 1.

LOOKING FOR MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES, please go to <https://parentguidance.org/> to explore free public webinars and information that may help!

INSIGHTS ON GAMING

Here are some free public articles and resources for parents who are interested in this topic.

- The Positive Educational Benefits of Gaming <https://www.teachingchannel.com/k12-hub/blog/educational-benefits-video-games/>
- Resources for Parents Experiencing Gaming Addiction with Their Child - <https://parentguidance.org/courses/video-gaming-addiction/>



HELP WITH CATCHING UP ON MISSED WORK

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.

An important update for Self Paced Classes

As MEVA continues to strive for academic excellence and progress, we are adjusting the end date for self-paced courses to the last day of school, June 13, 2025. If you are in need of summer credit recovery, please contact guidance@mainevirtualacademy.org to obtain Dr. Browne's permission for alternatives.

There are about five months remaining in the academic year and we hope that with this advance notice all students in self-paced courses will adjust their pace accordingly. As always, HelpDesk is available daily from 2-2:50PM