

SY 25-26
Issue 1
August 1, 2025



MAINE

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

DR. MELINDA BROWNE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to MEVA school year 2025-2026, our eleventh 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 make 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

- New student orientation: 8/20/2025 (link coming)
- First day of school: 8/25/2025
- NWEA testing (VIRTUAL) 9/16, 9/17, 9/18
- MEA testing (IN PERSON) Oct 6,7,8

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- September 1: Labor Day



MEVA CONTACTS

Use these emails for a quick response to your questions:

[Attendance](#)
[Guidance](#)
[Tech](#)

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



PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE PAGE

This page contains a lot of vital information, please don't skip over, unless a section does not pertain to you!

VISION SCREENING COMPLIANCE

Have you been to the Eye Doctor in the last year? Are you in grade 7 or 9? If so, please have your parent complete the annual vision screening [form](#)! 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.

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.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Do you work on top of attending school? Did you know you could potentially claim work hours for school credit? Please complete this [link](#) to tell us where you work!

TECHNICAL CENTER CLASSES

Are you enrolled in a local technical center? Please fill out this [link](#) and let us know! Be sure to send us your transcripts at the end of the semester so we can award you credit!

25-26 ELECTIVE COURSE SELECTION

MEVA is thrilled to offer a wide variety of elective classes, to view the course lists, please visit [here](#) to view our 25-26 Program of Studies and then email your Guidance Counselor to make your selection: Grades 7-9, [Mr. Pierce](#), Grades 10-12, [Mrs. Tyler](#)

TECH CHECK

Prior to the first day of school, please ensure that you are able to LOG ON to Gmail and Brightspace, additionally, please update your laptop as there have been many Microsoft updates in the last few months. The update can take several hours, depending on the last time you did so. Email [tech](#) if you have any issues.

I AM FEELING LOST, WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

MEVA MEETS

MEVA Meets- an IN PERSON study hall for the Virtual School!

MEVA Meets provides students with the opportunity for in-person assistance with classwork or overdue assignments, or simply to connect with their peers. We invite you to join us at the **MEVA office**.

Location:

Ballard Center
6 E Chestnut St.
Suite 230
Augusta, ME 04330

Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday, September 10th 9:30am-1pm
- Wednesday, October 29th 9:30am-1pm
- Wednesday, November 12th 9:30am-1pm
- Wednesday, December 10th 9:30am-1pm



For further information, please contact us at guidance@mainevirtualacademy.org.

STUDENT HELP DESK

Staying proactive with homework can make a huge difference in a successful semester!

HelpDesk is here for you every day at 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM. This is a great space to focus on your live and/or self-paced classes, get help with coursework, and tackle your to-do list in a supportive environment. Whether you're working through challenging topics, catching up on assignments, or planning your next steps, HelpDesk is here to make your self-paced journey smoother.

Don't forget to use the HelpDesk Homework Organizer, available daily in the calendar, to create a personalized homework plan. Taking a little time to plan can help you stay on track 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 the most of these 7 weeks to finish Semester 1 strong!

HelpDesk Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10:30 am (High School Only) and 2:00 pm (Whole School)

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

We're excited to see you at the HelpDesk and help you achieve your best.

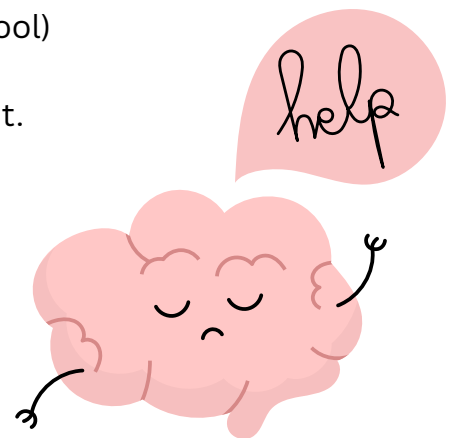
Cheers!

Ms. Hart

HelpDesk Coordinator

nhart@mainevirtualacademy.org

207-200-5236



FOX TIME!

What is FOX Time?

FOX Time (Focused Opportunities to eXpand Learning) is a required support block at MEVA designed to help students strengthen their skills in math and reading. It's not a punishment or extra work—it's targeted support built to give students what they need to succeed.

Who Attends?

FOX Time is required for:

All middle school students

Students scoring below the 40th percentile on NWEA

Students who are more than two grade levels behind on i-Ready



Why It Matters:

FOX Time gives students personalized instruction, helps close skill gaps, and builds confidence for long-term success.

Student Expectations:

Attend all scheduled FOX Time sessions

Participate actively in lessons and activities

Approach FOX Time as a helpful tool, not a setback

Questions? Contact Dr. O'Grady at cogrady@mainevirtualacademy.org

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.

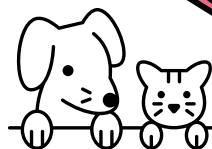
MEVA's rigorous curriculum is aligned to the eight Maine content areas, the Maine Learning Results, the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. MEVA will demand the highest level of accountability from our Maine-certified teachers, our educational management system and our nationally recognized provider of educational services. The MEVA Board will contract with Stride K12 for educational products and selected support services.

STUDENT SHOWCASE CORNER!

We love celebrating and showing off our amazing students! Do you have:

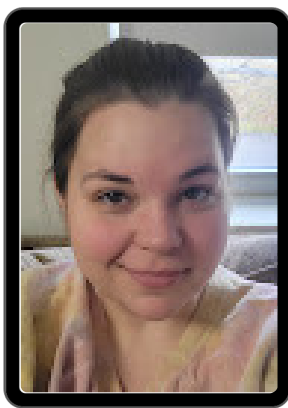
- Any art work?
- Writing pieces
- Photography
- Pets
- Anything else cool you want to share?

Please email it to us at newsletter@mainevirtualacademy.org



TEACHER FEATURE

Lisa Russell Ed-Tech



Working at MEVA: I have been an Ed Tech at MEVA for 4 years and I love every minute of it! I get to help students achieve goals they didn't know they could achieve and it is very rewarding!

Fun Facts about me:

I have 2 kids who are my world and I am working towards my Master's Degree where I will have a dual degree in School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I love to crochet and have been making a lot of plushies and blankets lately! I enjoy painting, sewing, anything creative and crafty really!

Alecxsander Aizha-Roussy

STUDENT FEATURE



Alecxsander will be entering 11th Grade at MEVA this fall. Alecxsander was born in West New York. By 3rd grade we moved to St. Augustine, FL to get away from city life. There Alecxsander learned and loved to surf, was becoming an accomplished cellist & was just starting to train for his black belt in Tae Kwon Do – when COVID restrictions hit all of us in 2020. He entered Virtual School then, and shortly after, we moved to a family property in Carrabassett, Maine. He loved learning to ski at nearby Sugarloaf Mountain... and when the COVID restrictions ended – he liked Maine well enough to ask to stay. Alecxsander then threw himself into all the activities Wells Junior HS had to offer. He continued with his music (including drums, piano & guitar), he was in the band, the chorus, all of the schools theatre productions; as well as, both the cross-country & track teams. To say he made the most of every opportunity would be an understatement.

All the while maintaining academics - finishing at the top of his class each year. At the end of Middle School, he applied and was accepted into MSSM (the Maine School of Science & mathematics) a Magnate STEM boarding HS up in Limestone, Maine for his Freshman year and he decided to try MEVA his Sophomore year & has loved the flexibility to study high level EC & AP courses, while continuing to compete on local Nordic Track, Cross-Country & Tennis teams. He also made time to become a member of the local HS Key Club. It's been a long journey to MEVA – but well worth the trek! The ability to have the flexibility to study at his own pace & at his own level makes MEVA very unique. This year he will continue to offer Math Tutoring at MEVA during Study Hall & will also be MEVA's elected NHS President – & has a number of exciting MEVA Community projects planned for members. He looks forward to seeing you there!

