

SY 25-26
Issue 2
September 1, 2025



MAINE

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

DR. MELINDA BROWNE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Our Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) faculty are a huge asset to our school community. As parents, you may request your students' teachers' credentials, as noted in our annual [letter](#):

We expect that you will be incredibly pleased with MEVA's academic program, and we hope that you take advantage of our flexible course offerings, including traditional, self-paced, and project-based learning. We want to make sure that our school is a great fit for our students and their families. To schedule an in-depth conversation about your students' preferences and needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Guidance](#)

We dedicate significant hours each week to listening to students and families. We are all here to help your students accomplish their unique goals.



IMPORTANT DATES

- 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
- October 14: Indigenous Peoples' 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](#).

TESTING- WHERE AM I GOING?

Testing is an incredibly important part of MEVA's culture, we rely on testing to tell us where to focus extra teaching efforts, as well as securing vital funding to be able to make MEVA the best of the best! Testing at MEVA is MANDATORY, however we work hard to ensure it is a smooth and painless process for all! That said, it can get confusing as to where and when testing will take place. Please read below to learn more!

NWEA TESTING =



NWEA testing is for grades 7-11 and happens 3 times a year, in September, January and April. This test will take place from the comfort of your own home, on your computer!

MEA TESTING =



MEA testing is for grades 7, 8, 10 and 11 and happens 2 times a year, in October and April/May. This test is **IN PERSON**, however we set up test sites all over the state to bring testing closer to you! Locations include: Saco, Lewiston, Augusta, Farmington, Bangor, Houlton and Presque Isle.

I-READY TESTING =



iReady testing is for grades 7-11 and happens 2 times a year, in January for mid-year enrollees and April. This test is VIRTUAL and will take place during Math and English classes.

MSAA TESTING =



MSAA testing is for grades 7, 8 and 11 and happens 1 time a year, in March. This test is VIRTUAL.

ACCUPLACER TESTING =



Accuplacer testing is for Seniors and anyone wishing to graduate early! Testing happens VIRTUALLY throughout the year, and is scheduled directly with Dr. O'Grady!

MEET THE NEW TEACHERS



MR. DOAK- SPECIAL EDUCATION

My name is Andrew Doak and I am excited to join the team! I have worked in Special Ed, IT, taught at a project-based high school and most recently worked for the State working on the MOOSE Project developing virtual learning modules. Outside of that I have my Bachelors from Orono and soon to have my Master's from USM. I enjoy gardening, cooking, hanging with my dog Peggy and building and tinkering with computers.

MS. THERIAULT- SPECIAL EDUCATION

I am Lila Theriault and I am joining MEVA this year after being a special education teacher and a regular ed teacher at Maine public schools for the past 15 years. I obtained a Bachelors of Arts in Biology and a Masters in Education from the University of Maine System.

I teach because learning is exciting and opens new opportunities for every student. When I'm not teaching, I love gardening, cooking, reading, walking and listening to music.

I look forward to an exciting new school year!



MRS. HACKETT- ENGLISH

Hello! My name is Emily Hanna Hackett, and I am coming to MEVA after four years of teaching language arts at Westbrook Middle School. My husband and I got married last December, and we recently moved to the Midcoast, a region near and dear to our hearts. When I'm not teaching or reading, I enjoy going on outings with my nieces and godchildren, spending time with my cats, swimming in Damariscotta Lake, or simply basking in Maine's unparalleled beauty.

MEET THE NEW TEACHERS



MR. PETITO- ENGLISH

I'm Dave Petito and I'm excited to join the MEVA faculty! I love traveling, biking, hiking, kayaking, and, of course, reading! I moved to beautiful Maine over 10 years ago, and I'm still amazed by the wonderful places I find and people I meet around every corner of the state.

Thanks and I look forward to working with you!
Mr. Petito

MS. JONES- ENGLISH

With eight years of experience in education, I'm excited to join the team and continue sharing my passion for teaching English. Outside the classroom, I'm a mom, avid reader, gardener, and fiber artist who enjoys nurturing creativity in all forms. I look forward to a great year ahead with both students and colleagues!



EVERYONE HAS A TALENT-AND WE WANT TO SEE YOURS.

Whether you sing, dance, juggle, act, tumble, tell jokes, or play an instrument—the 2025 K12 Talent Showdown is your chance to show off what makes you shine.

No fancy stage needed. Just your heart, your hustle, and a camera.

Entries must be submitted by November 17th, 2025!

See Stride website for details:

<https://enrichment.k12.com/talent-showdown/>

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.

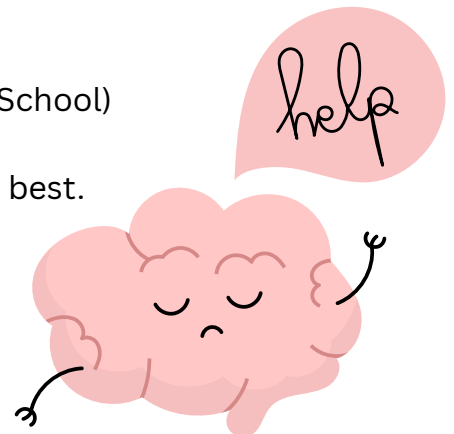
Cheers!

Ms. Hart

HelpDesk Coordinator

nhart@mainevirtualacademy.org

207-200-5236



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

