

SY 26-27
Issue 1
August 1, 2026



MAINE

VIRTUAL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

DR. MELINDA BROWNE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to MEVA school year 2026-2027, our twelfth 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 31st). 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: 8/26/2026 12 & 6PM
- First day of school: 8/31/2026
- NWEA testing (VIRTUAL) 9/15, 9/16, 9/17
- MEA testing (IN PERSON) Oct 6,7,8

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

September 7th: 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](#).



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE NEWSLETTER

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

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWS!

Dawson Emery- IT Coordinator



Over the summer MEVA welcomed a new IT Coordinator, to better serve our IT needs. Mr. Emery comes to us with an immense amount of knowledge to support our efforts to make MEVA the best. In the coming school year, if you encounter any MEVA issued laptop issues, please reach out to Mr. Emery via [email](#) or via MEVA's new [IT ticketing system](#). You will notice a new "MEVA Bookmarks" tab when signed into your school email account, the portal can also be accessed from here under the "Support Portal".

As part of our IT upgrades, we will be sending out new laptops in the fall in batches. Included with the new laptop will be a return label to ship back your old one. Please back up any needed files prior to sending them back and mail within 5 business days of receiving your new laptop.

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.

BRIGHTSPACE UPDATE:

All students have been placed into grade level courses! Individual courses will not be visible until the end of the week prior to the first day of school, however the schedule and calendar are posted on the Home Page!

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.

VACCINE COMPLIANCE:

SENIORS: If you have not, please email your most recent Immunization documents showing a second dose of MCV4 to [Guidance](#)

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!

26-27 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 26-27 Program of Studies and then email your Guidance Counselor to make your selection: Grades 7-10, [Mr. Pierce](#), Grades 11-12, [Mrs. Tyler](#)

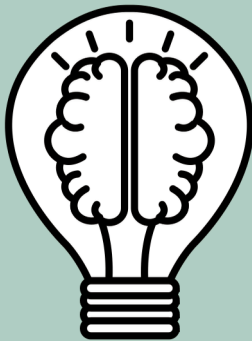
MEVA ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

MEVA offers high school students the opportunity to meet graduation requirements via alternative pathways. Read below for more information on what we offer!

01.

Self-Paced Courses

Many of MEVA's high school courses can be taken self-paced/asynchronously. This option allows students to complete the course on their own time and at their own pace. In order to earn credit students must earn at least a 60%, however we encourage students to continue working for a higher grade. We will hold regular check-ins to make sure you're on track!



Project-Based Learning

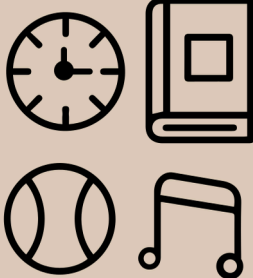
Students have the opportunity to complete projects related to their interests to earn multiple credits toward graduation.

02.

03.

Work Study

MEVA's Work Study program allows our employed students to log hours for credit. Students are required to complete the External Credit Form. 60 hours equals .5 credit.



External Credit

MEVA students can log hours for activities and earn credit! 60 hours equals .5 credit. Students are required to complete the External Credit Form. Eligible activities include but are not limited to volunteering, driver's education, employment, sports participation, etc.!

04.

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 **VIRTUALLY** 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 Specific students in grades 7, 8 and 11 and happens 1 time a year, in March. This test is **IN PERSON**.

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!

MEVA MEETS- AN IN PERSON STUDY HALL

Many of you may know me as Gina, or Ms. Davis, I send a LOT of communications to you weekly, answer your phone calls and technology requests, call to bug you for updated information occasionally or text and call to confirm your students presence at our in-person testing, among other things! What most do not know, is that I too, have a student at MEVA! She has attended almost every single MEVA meets since we started them about a year ago, and this is what I have to say, as a parent, about the MEVA Meets program!

“MEVA Meets is bridging the gap between Virtual and Brick and Mortar schools, the in-person you (and your student!) may need from time to time, with the safety and flexibility of virtual schooling. My student can accomplish in 4 hours at MEVA Meets what would take a week (and whole lot of nagging) at home. Our teachers are such a valuable part of this, they are the caring, compassionate teachers who don't judge, even if your student has fallen behind, but instead, quietly helps them make a plan of action to catch up and gets them excited about their progress”

I hope to see some of your students at one of our upcoming MEVA Meets!

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

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, September 30th 9:30am-1pm

Wednesday, October 28th 9:30am-1pm

Wednesday, November 18th 9:30am-1pm

Wednesday, December 9th 9:30am-1pm

Wednesday, February 10th 9:30am-1pm

Wednesday, March 31st 9:30am-1pm

Wednesday, May 26th 9:30am-1pm



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 20th 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 or Mr. Corbett at FOXrewards@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

