

SY 26-27  
Issue 2  
September 1, 2026



# 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 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:  
8/31/2026
- NWEA testing (VIRTUAL)  
9/15, 9/16, 9/17
- MEA testing (IN PERSON)  
Oct 6,7,8

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- September 7: Labor Day
- October 12: 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](#).

## STATE TESTING:

# SAVE THE DATE

Attending school on state testing days is especially important because these assessments help us understand student progress and identify areas where students may need additional support. Please remember that NWEA testing will take place virtually for some students in September, while MEA testing will take place in person for some students in October. Being present, prepared, and ready to do your best on testing days gives you the opportunity to show what you know and helps our school make informed decisions about how to support your learning. We encourage all students to make state testing a priority and to plan ahead to be present on their scheduled testing days.

## MAINE'S NEW BELL TO BELL POLICY:

In accordance with the new state mandate, Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) has adopted the following policy for all in-person school events and activities, including, but not limited to, state assessments, MEVA Meets, field trips, and other school functions.

In addition, MEVA encourages parents and legal guardians to support student compliance with school expectations by monitoring device usage during the school day. Students should refrain from using cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices (other than school-issued or school-designated computers/tablets) while attending classes or participating in educational activities, except when approved for educational purposes or due to documented extenuating circumstances.

The intent of this policy is to support a focused learning environment, minimize distractions, and promote student social and emotional well-being by setting expectations regarding the use of student personal cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices (PEDs) during the school day.

This policy applies to all student personal electronic devices with Internet or cellular network connection connectivity capabilities, wearable or handheld.

Legal Reference: [https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/bills\\_129th/billtexts/HP072001.asp](https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/bills_129th/billtexts/HP072001.asp)

Board Manual Reference: JICJ: Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools

PSHB: Pages 54-55

## 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.

## GUIDANCE CORNER:

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Filing the FAFSA is the first step in applying for financial aid for post-secondary education and is a requirement even for FREE community college. The FAFSA is available on October 1st. Completing and submitting the FAFSA is FREE. Apply at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). Need help? Contact FAME (Finance Authority of Maine) at 1-800-228-3734 or [Education@FAMEmaine.com](mailto:Education@FAMEmaine.com).

## PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK

Please see our annual Parent Student Handbook [here](#).

## VACCINE COMPLIANCE:

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

## PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL LETTER

Please see the Presidential Welcome Back to School Letter [here](#).

# SEARCHING FOR ARTISTS TO JOIN GT ART!

Meet other Artists! Laugh! Have Fun! Enjoy Art? Excited to make art? We want passionate artists of all levels that want to learn and play.

### EXPECTATIONS:

- ✓ ATTEND LIVE Class Session Every WED. 2pm
- ✓ Complete Bi-Weekly Challenges
- ✓ Practice skills and techniques, creative challenges, Share your art with the group!
- ✓ Submit at least 1 work of art for Mid-Year and End of Year Art Show

### HOW TO APPLY:

- ✓ Choose 1-2 works of art you've created that show us the type of art you LIKE to create
- ✓ Create a work of art with any materials that falls under the THEME: Being a Teenager
- ✓ Agree to do your best to meet our expectations

### APPLY NOW

**DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 13**

**Photograph & email Your Art to:**

- ✉ [auth@mainevirtualacademy.org](mailto:auth@mainevirtualacademy.org)
- ✉ [lsamson@mainevirtualacademy.org](mailto:lsamson@mainevirtualacademy.org)



# 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**

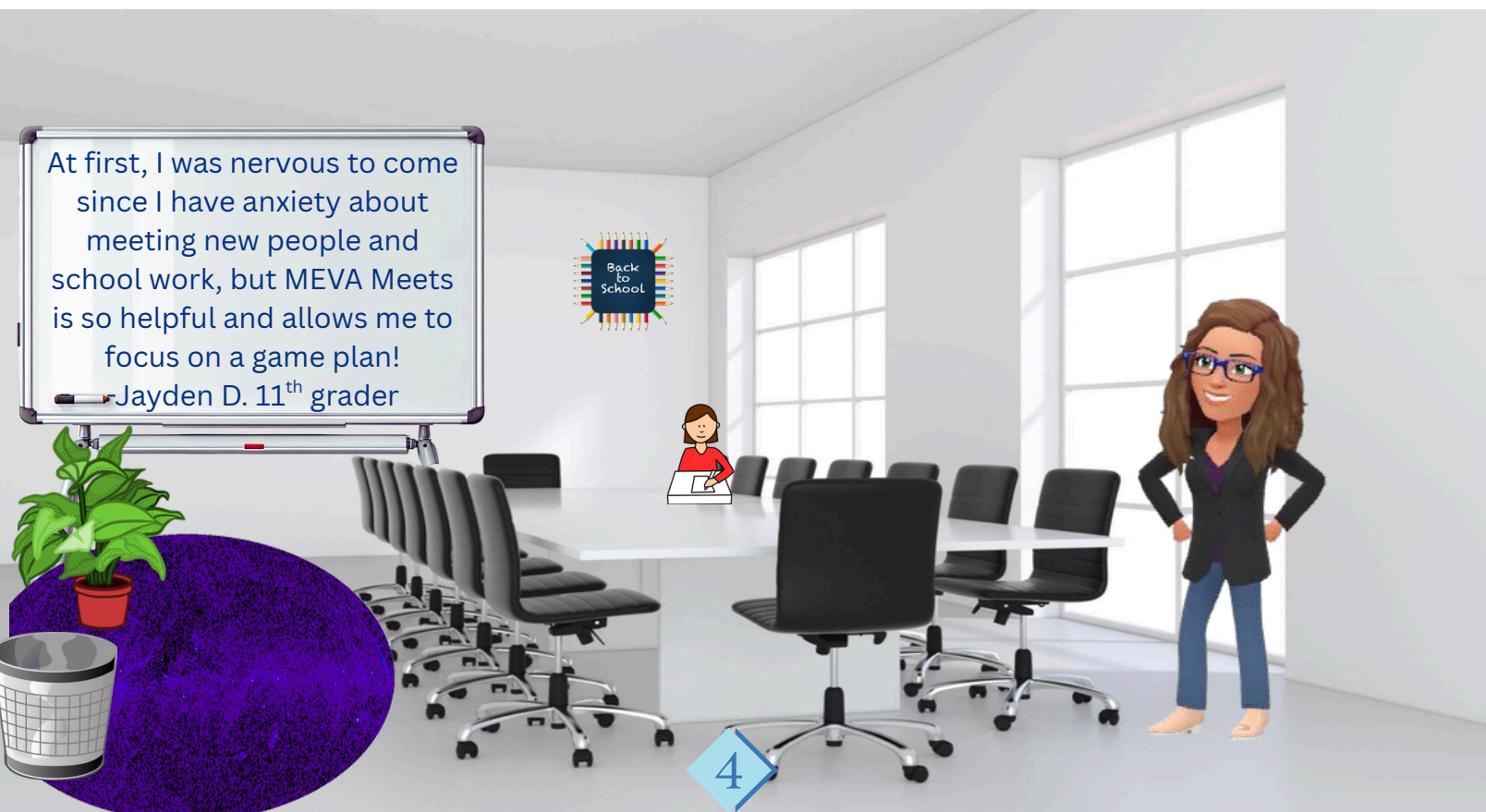
**Wednesday, November 18th 9:30am-1pm**

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

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

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

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



# I AM FEELING LOST, WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

## 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](mailto:FOXrewards@mainevirtualacademy.org)

## STUDENT HELP DESK

Welcome to the New HelpDesk!

HelpDesk has a fresh new look this year, with new resources, events, activities, challenges, and Fox Awards! All students are invited to complete the new HelpDesk Orientation to explore everything available. Students will learn how to plan and organize their work, find support, participate in HelpDesk activities, connect with Fox Mentors and Tutors, and earn recognition.

[Start the HelpDesk Orientation](#)

Complete every required page, click Mark as Complete, and score 100% on the Final Assessment to earn the Knowledge Ninja Award. Unlimited attempts are available!

**Morning Mix: Monday–Friday, 8:05–8:20 AM**

**HelpDesk Live for High School: Tuesday–Friday, 1:00–1:50 PM**

**Make a plan. Ask for help. Stay engaged. Keep growing.**

