



ESEA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Dr. Melinda Browne, Head of School

At MEVA, we demonstrate our commitment to parent/Learning Coach participation by hosting dozens of team meetings each week to review students' academic progress and to make programming adjustments as needed. You can view our [Program of Studies](#) to see what courses are offered. We send weekly messages that keep all our families informed about their responsibilities within the MEVA community. Annually, we provide a meeting to outline MEVA's ESEA/Title schoolwide student supports, such as Middle School and High School Help Desk, and to answer any questions about how to access these resources and more. We provide a list of the important ESEA/Title program components for your information:

Annual Meeting – We encourage parents/Learning Coaches to attend our scheduled annual meeting on Wednesday, October 21st at 4:00 pm, via Zoom (link to be published), which will present information about MEVA's Title I program and discuss our Parent Involvement and School-Parent Compact. All MEVA students are eligible for Schoolwide ESEA (Title 1A) supports and interventions including MS small group meetings, MS and HS HelpDesk, team meetings, external credit opportunities, and self paced classes. The meeting will be recorded, and the recording link and materials will be distributed. Keep an eye out for the Zoom link which we will send out closer to October 21st.

Important Links:

[ESEA/Title I Policy](#)
[ESSA Dashboard](#)
[Parent Student Handbook](#)



Important dates

- MEA testing (IN PERSON)
Oct 6,7,8
- Open House: Oct 21st at
4pm

School holidays

- October 12: Indigenous
Peoples' Day
- November 11: Veteran's Day
- November 25-27:
Thanksgiving Vacation



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](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

10/6, 7, 8, 9

State testing:

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 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.

Bell-to-Bell and Testing

In accordance with the new state mandate, Maine Virtual Academy is requiring all cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices be left at home or in the car while student's are in an in-person testing session, except when approved for educational purposes or due to documented extenuating circumstances.

At testing check-in, proctors will double check that they have your accurate phone number to call in case of an emergency or when your student is complete testing and ready to be picked up.



MEVA's 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

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

PSHB: Pages 54-55

Vaccine compliance:

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

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.

A Message about Child Find

Discovering Every Learner's Potential: MEVA's Child Find Initiative MEVA's Child Find program identifies and supports students who may benefit from special education services or targeted interventions. This initiative ensures every learner receives the support they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. If you suspect your student may have learning differences or challenges, or if you have questions, please email ltheriault@mainevirtualacademy.org

Seniors and Early Grads:

Please reach out to your guidance counselor, [Mrs. Tyler](#), to set up a time to meet to work on your plans for after high school.

Students applying to college will need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The 2027-28 FAFSA will be open for applications on October 1, 2026.

How To Prepare for the 2027-28 FAFSA® [Form](#):

- Prepare now so you can complete the 2027-28 FAFSA form as soon as it's available. Here are some ways you can get ready:
- Create a StudentAid.gov account (if you don't already have one).
- Learn about the documents you may need to fill out the FAFSA form.
- Determine your dependency status and whether your parent(s) or spouse will be required to contribute information on your FAFSA form.
- If you're a dependent student, use the Who's My FAFSA Parent? wizard to identify which parent(s) will be a required contributor on your form.
- For more information or support in completing the FAFSA please visit <https://www.famemaine.com/affording-education/pay-for-school/get-financial-aid/filing-the-fafsa/>

COLLEGE

Get Ready for the Financial Aid Process

Now is a perfect time for students and their families to get ready to apply for financial aid. To help students and families understand the financial aid process, the FAFSA, and the steps they need to take this fall, FAME is hosting numerous Financial Aid Information Sessions, both virtually and in person.

Additionally, any senior (or parent/guardian of a senior) who joins the text or email list ([FAMEmaine.com/join](https://famemaine.com/join)) will be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 Future Fund scholarship.

Attend a FREE Financial Aid Information Session

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the financial aid application used by all schools to award federal, state, and often institutional financial aid. The FAFSA for the 2027-2028 academic year will be available by October 1, 2026.

The updated FAFSA is easier than ever to complete! Knowing what to expect will make the entire financial aid process go more smoothly. Many people are new to the financial aid process, and FAME is available to support Mainers through the entire process. Please join FAME for one of their FREE Financial Aid Information Sessions.

During this free session, you'll learn more about:

- what financial aid is and how the process works
- the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- steps to take now to get ready to file the FAFSA
- creating a StudentAid.gov account, and understanding who needs one
- tips to make the process easier
- There will also be an opportunity to ask your questions!

IN-PERSON FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION SESSIONS

Numerous in-person sessions are being held throughout the state. You can find a [list of upcoming events](#) on FAME's website. Registration is not required for in-person sessions.

VIRTUAL FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION SESSIONS

FAME offers multiple virtual sessions via Zoom. Registration is required. Information can be found [here](#).

Meet the new teachers



Ms. Doane- Special education/art

Hi! I'm Jen Doane and I'm excited to be joining MEVA this year as both an Art Teacher and Special Education Teacher. I believe strongly in student growth and in helping every student discover their strengths and feel successful at school. I love creating, learning new things, and finding ways to make learning meaningful and engaging for all students.

Outside of school, I live with my husband and daughter, and together we love art, nature, animals, and being creative. We have a small farm with sheep, a dog, and a very shy barn cat. I also keep bees and enjoy gardening and spending time outdoors. I've always loved making art and trying new materials, and I'm excited to share that love of creativity with my students.

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, 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

Student HELP desk

 What's Happening at HelpDesk?

We're officially into our first month of school! 🎉 As routines settle in and school gets busier, remember that HelpDesk is here to help you get organized, build skills, connect, and find support.



 Morning Mix — Start your day with us Monday–Friday, 8:05–8:20 AM! Check in, connect, and use your [October Fox Planner](#) to make a plan for your day.

 Catch Up on Tech Tips — Build skills that make virtual school easier:

 [Pin Important Chrome Tabs](#) •  [Make Chrome Your Default Browser](#) •  [Manage Your Brightspace Calendar](#)

Find even more in the [Tech Tips Center](#).

 Learn & Earn — Complete activities, challenges, Tech Tips, and more to collect HelpDesk awards! [Explore Learn & Earn](#).

 Want YOUR pet to be a Homework Helper? Send a favorite pet photo to nhart@mainevirtualacademy.org for a chance to have your pet featured and turned into a HelpDesk award!

 Make a plan. Take the next step. Ask for help when you need it. You've got this, Foxes!

 Visit the HelpDesk Homepage