



MAINE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

STUDENT PROFILE

Students of the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences:

- Are motivated to complete school and will choose to attend the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences.
- Are interested in, and capable of, working in accordance with a project based, hands-on approach.
- Have an interest in agricultural/forestry/sustainability themes.
- Understand the benefits of co-enrollment at KVCC.
- Have supportive parental involvement when possible.
- May not currently be enrolled in secondary school, or are not currently thriving in school.

“In the last decades much emphasis has been laid upon teaching boys and girls to earn a living; in relatively few educational circles has the emphasis been placed on teaching how to live.”

- GEORGE WALTER HINCKLEY,
“The Good Will Idea” 1929



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REQUIREMENTS TO ATTEND

Students of the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences:

- Must possess a desire to succeed in school and in life.
- Are in the 9th - 12th grade.

A TYPICAL DAY AT MeANS

A typical day includes:

- Two hours of classroom instruction.
- Two and a half hours of individual and group project work.
- Two hours of elective activity/job shadowing, internships, or course work at Kennebec Valley Community College.



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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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THE FIRST SCHOOL IN MAINE TO
OFFER AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
PROGRAM FOCUSED ON

- AGRICULTURE
- SUSTAINABILITY
- FORESTRY
- ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

A unique high school option for the active, real world learner.



MAINE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Opening in September, 2011, the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences will be the first high school in Maine to focus on agriculture, sustainability, forestry, workforce skill training and independent living skills.

The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences will work in collaboration with the Kennebec Valley Community College which will offer Maine's only agricultural Associates Degree.

Located in central Maine on several hundred acres of wilderness, organic farmland and river frontage, the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences is within 50 miles of key agricultural enterprises including the Maine Grain Alliance, Johnny's Seeds, Backyard Farms, Caverly's Farm, Flood Brothers Farm, Bessey Tree Farm, Grasslands Organic Dairy Farm, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, and FEDCO Seeds.

THE PROGRAM

The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences program will introduce young people to careers in farming, forestry, sustainability, alternative energy and other related fields.

Guided by their personal learning plan, students will gain knowledge and skills through hands on projects, internships, targeted curriculums, and real-world experiences including growing organic food on campus for the cafeteria and residences. In addition students will consult with local produce vendors to learn sales and marketing skills, study sustainable forestry practices and explore environmental issues, energy needs and primary concerns that face local and statewide businesses in Maine. Moreover, students will make connections with healthy adult role models who will guide them toward further education and meaningful work.

PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

Program principles include:

- Integrating a standards based curriculum.
- Meeting Common Core/Maine Learning Results expectations.
- Creating personal learning plans for all students.
- Support for student voice, choice, and responsibility.
- Experiential learning with an emphasis on agricultural sustainability and small business entrepreneurship.
- Real world problem solving, and service to community.
- Development of a positive learning community.
- Inclusion of family and community whenever possible.
- Offering credit for year round learning occurring anywhere and at any time.
- Options for co-enrollment with KVCC.
- A plan for students to graduate career and college ready.

PROGRAM STAFF

Program instructors are caring adults who are enthusiastic, energetic and skilled in a variety of areas. Able to connect with a wide range of students from many different environments, these teachers are committed to the subjects they teach and also to the personal and academic advancement of their students.

PROGRAM SIZE AND SCOPE

The High School Division includes Grades 9 - 12 and will be comprised of twenty-five students with three teachers including one certified Agricultural Specialist and one Ed Tech.

Students considering the programs are those who thrive in a hands-on learning environment, and who have a strong interest in environmental & agricultural studies, whether currently enrolled in high school or not.

On campus housing will be available as soon as January, 2012.

PROPOSED INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

Program curriculum will include:

- Seasonal cultivation of vegetables and flowers.
- Year-round greenhouse production.
- Harvesting, packing and shipping.
- Soil science.
- Pest control.
- Sustainability issues such as recycling and energy usage.
- Composting.
- Raising small livestock such as chickens, pigs and goats.
- Forestry skills including trail creation and maintenance.
- Nutrition.
- Marketing skills including graphic design, networking and business communications skills.
- Small business skills including accounting, bookkeeping, banking, and utilization of business related software.

PROGRAM GOALS

Students will become engaged, reflective, and self-directed learners. They will develop habits of heart and mind that lead them to taking responsibility for their own actions as well as for the welfare of other students, their community and their environment. They will have a plan for their next steps as young adults including further education, training, adventure, civic engagement and work.